

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION
OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY



PHONE: (202) 690-6870 FAX: (202) 401-7321

Date:

From:

Sharman
Stephens

To:

Jennifer Kline

Phone: (202) 690-

(202) 690-6870

FAX: (202) 401-7321

Phone:

Fax:

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 3

Comments:

Respiratory Therapy

Sully + Bob VanHatch talked + they had
me redraft the Grossberg letter +
related Q + A being more upfront
about the Medicare situation. See
if you are comfortable.

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attention: Sarah Gesiriech

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for sharing with us letters from your constituents expressing concern about coverage for non-hospital based respiratory therapy under the guaranteed benefits in President Clinton's Health Security Act.

In designing the proposal knowledge and expertise gained from existing Federal health programs like Medicare was used. The Health Security Act includes a comprehensive benefit package. A broad range of medically necessary or appropriate services are specified in the Act including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse services, home health care, extended care, and services of health professionals. The Act does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services.

The Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services which could be performed by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state. It is expected that improved competition among health plans will create new incentives for effective use of other providers. ~~This, in turn, will increase the competitiveness of alternative practitioners.~~ Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrollees.

Nevertheless, I recognize the concern about the Health Security Act's connection to Medicare policy which does not include respiratory therapy as a home health care service. The Clinton Administration is committed to the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care. As the bill is debated in Congress, we intend to work with the Congress to identify the best benefit package that can be guaranteed to all Americans.

01/28/94 17:28

202 401 7321

HHS ASPE/HP

2003/004

I hope that this information is helpful in responding to your constituents. Thank you for your interest in health care reform.

Sincerely,

Judith Feder
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Planning and Evaluation

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Q: Is non-hospital based respiratory therapy covered under the comprehensive benefit package?

A: In an effort to guarantee quality care to all Americans, the Health Security Act includes a comprehensive benefit package. In designing the proposal knowledge and expertise gained from existing Federal health programs like Medicare was used. A broad range of medically necessary or appropriate services are specified in the Act including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, clinical preventive services, mental illness and substance abuse services, home health care, extended care, and services of health professionals. The Act does not specify particular items or services within these broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services.

The Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician, or those services which could be performed by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state. It is expected that improved competition among health plans will create new incentives for effective use of other providers. This, in turn, will increase the competitiveness of alternative practitioners. Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrollees.

We recognize the concern about the Health Security Act's connection to Medicare policy which does not include respiratory therapy as a home health care service. The Clinton Administration is committed to the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care. As the bill is debated in Congress, we intend to work with the Congress to identify the best benefit package that can be guaranteed to all Americans.

Jennifer

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

- Q: Is respiratory therapy covered under the comprehensive benefit package?
- A: A broad range of medically necessary or appropriate services are specified in the Act including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, clinical preventive services, home health care, extended care, mental illness and substance abuse services, and services of health professionals. The Act does not specify particular items or services within the broad categories, nor does it identify specific providers of services. The Act defines health professional services to include those services that are lawfully provided by a physician and which are provided by another person who is legally authorized to provide those services in the state. It is expected that improved competition among health plans will create new incentives for effective use of providers. This, in turn, will increase the competitiveness of alternative practitioners. Plans will be free to use any mix of providers to meet the needs of their enrollees.