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New Report Demonstrates Opportunities for Home Health in Medicare Advantage

The report finds that home health is underutilized in MA plans and identifies barriers and opportunities for the future

WASHINGTON – A new report by KNG Health Consulting and commissioned by the Alliance for Home Health Quality & Innovation (the Alliance) studies the value of skilled home health care and the role of home health in a growing Medicare Advantage (MA) environment. Titled, “Exploration of the Value and Role of Home Health Care in Medicare Advantage,” the multi-pronged research paper looks at the current state of home health care’s role in MA and what is needed for the future.

Beginning with a literature review, the report includes interviews with key stakeholders, and looks at the existing gaps in research and knowledge regarding the value of home health care in MA. The report also outlines priority areas for future research. Specifically, the report highlights a need for research on patient outcomes in MA as compared to traditional Medicare types of patients receiving home health care services, and the types of services received in each payment model. This research is the next step in outlining a future for home health care in MA.

The report discusses the growing need for a better understanding of home health care within MA. Home health care is currently utilized less in MA than in traditional Medicare, and potential barriers to home health in MA include the aforementioned disconnect in knowledge regarding home health care, a burdensome authorization process, and more.

“Home health has tremendous proven value in providing lower cost, quality care to patients as an essential part of the health care spectrum,” said Jennifer Schiller, Executive Director of the Alliance. “This work is vital to developing a better understanding of the current role and awareness of home health care in Medicare Advantage, which will help inform the future of care delivered in the home. It gives the Alliance and the healthcare community a formidable and necessary base for potential future research and inquiry.”

The Alliance and KNG Health Consulting will be presenting the findings at the National Association for Home Care & Hospice’s 2021 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo, October 2 – 5 in New Orleans, LA.

The full report is available on the Alliance’s website here: <https://ahhqi.org/research/medicare-advantage-report>

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The Alliance for Home Health Quality and Innovation (the Alliance) is comprised of leaders in the home health care community – including several of the largest home health care providers in the United States and the largest national trade association representing home health care providers. The mission of the Alliance is to foster research and education on the value of home health care to patients and the overall U.S. health care system. The Alliance is dedicated to improving the nation’s health care system through development of high quality and innovative solutions aimed at achieving optimal clinical outcomes. To learn more, visit www.ahhqj.org.