

MEDIA ADVISORY

VNAA Supports President's Efforts to Cut Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Medicare & Medicaid But Opposes Co-Pay for Home Health

(Washington, DC) – February 13, 2012 – VNAA supports President Obama's desire to cut waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid through efforts to boost program integrity and reduce improper payments as outlined in his recently announced FY 2013 budget proposal. VNAA has been a leader in proposing successful and practical solutions to stop agencies that are gaming the system while protecting vulnerable patients served by its safety net home health and hospice members.

"We urge Congress and the Administration to avoid across-the-board cuts or patient co-payments, and instead use targeted strategies to reduce payments, as the President's budget states, "made to the wrong person, in the wrong amount, or for the wrong reason," said Andy Carter, VNAA President and CEO.

VNAA has long been a leader in identifying specific ways that Congress and the Administration can change policy and reimbursement to cut waste, fraud and abuse while enhancing high quality home health and hospice care for patients who need it.

Read two specific recommendations VNAA has submitted for home health and hospice, click below:

- [VNAA's Medicare Home Health: Encouraging Quality and Discouraging Abuse](#)
- [VNAA's Restoring Integrity and Quality in Hospice Movement.](#)

However, VNAA is strongly opposed to President Obama's FY 2013 budget proposal to enact a \$100 co-payment for Medicare home health services.

"Our members are very concerned that any co-pay will lead patients to skip much-needed home health assistance, causing them to end up back in the hospital or another institutional setting at a much greater cost to themselves and to the Medicare program. Now is not the time to create barriers to Medicare home health services, which allow patients to receive high quality care at home and not have to be institutionalized where costs and health care risks are much higher" said Carter.

If President Obama's 2013 budget proposal were enacted, it would directly impact seniors and the disabled who are the most sick and the least able to afford a co-payment. The VNAA strongly opposes co-payments, which would shift costs to vulnerable patients, many of whom have incomes below \$30,000 per year, suffer from multiple chronic conditions and are over the age of 75.

The Administration has proposed that co-payments not be implemented until 2017 and only for new Medicare beneficiaries. While the \$100 co-payment in President Obama's FY 2013 budget would only apply to patients that have episodes with five or more visits not preceded by a hospital or other inpatient post-acute stay, experience shows that such a co-payment would discourage many patients from accepting medically-necessary care.

For more information on VNAA's position on co-payments, read [VNAA's letter to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#) or its [policy paper opposing co-payments](#).

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About VNAA: The VNAA is the national association that supports, promotes and advances nonprofit providers of home and community-based healthcare, hospice and health promotion services to ensure quality care for their communities. VNAA members share a mission to provide cost-effective and compassionate care to some of the nation's most vulnerable individuals, particularly the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Visit www.VNAA.org today!

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