Post-Acute Care Priorities 2020

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Nursing Homes
- Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act (H.R. 4468) Reinstate CNA training when all deficiencies for which the civil monetary penalty was assessed has been remedied.
- Stop imposing unfunded mandates such as payroll-based journaling (PBJ), trauma-informed care, infection prevention specialist, new emergency planning rules and life safety regulations, the new patient-driven payment model (PDPM) and quality reporting program (QRP), which all consume extra time and resources to implement and sustain in a challenging environment.
- Modernize the survey process from the archaic 1987 punitive review to a new, meaningful, collaborative, quality improvement review for better resident outcomes.

Home Health
- Home Health Payment Innovation Act (S. 433 / H.R. 2573) Remove the ability to adjust rates based on assumptions, but rather in response to observed evidence of behavioral changes.
- Home Care Planning & Improvement Act (S. 296 / H.R. 2150) Congress must act to allow NPPs to order home health services.
- Protect the Medicare Home Health 3% Rural Add-On The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 called for phasing the add-on out over the next 2-4 years, leaving many providers questioning how they will be able to stay in business.
- Allow for reimbursement of remote patient monitoring services and video visits.

Hospice & Palliative Care
- Rural Access to Hospice Act of 2019 (S. 1190 / H.R. 2594) Provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.
- Palliative Care & Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) H.R. 687/S. 2080 Increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

Senior Living & Other Issues:
- Oppose all federal legislation for regulation of assisted living facilities.
- Prioritize funding and programs for elderly housing under the Housing and Urban Development Section 202 Program.
- Support the EMPOWER Care Act (S. 2227 / H.R. 5306) to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person demonstration program which allows individuals with disabilities to leave institutions and transition to home and community.

Advancing Healthy Communities
Post-Acute Care Priorities 2020

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Nursing Homes
- Increase the Medicaid provider rate to close the shortfall gap between Medicaid and private pay rates. Currently a shortfall of $42.76 per resident per day.
- Develop a more robust “add pay” program for providers who accept high-risk residents such as traumatic brain injuries, challenging behaviors, bariatric and compassionate parole.
- Create opportunities for facilities to invest in capital improvements such as: window replacement, updated wifi/connectivity, enhanced security & communications system, remodeling to enhance living environment, bariatric equipment and improvements, bed/mattress replacements, updated technology and diagnostic tools.

Home Health
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement to cover actual cost of care.
- Close the gaps in coverage across the state by incentivizing providers to serve rural, remote areas.
- Add Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) reimbursement for travel, mileage, and case management.
- Assist providers with the new Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Requirement to reduce the burden of this unfunded mandate.

Hospice & Palliative Care
- Promote public awareness and training to support advance care planning for patients and providers.
- Encourage the use of South Dakota Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST), (2019 SB118) to allow providers and patients who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness to translate their treatment goals and preferences into actional medical orders.

Assisted Living:
- Increase Medicaid provider rates to encourage more assisted living facilities to accept Medicaid residents.
- Support the proposed $1,087,634 in general funds for Assisted Living Rate Tiers.