



S. 3792 / H.R. 7053

THE HOSPITAL INPATIENT SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT

Bipartisan Legislation Would Extend Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver Flexibilities
Broad Support from 120+ Stakeholders in Letter to Congress

BACKGROUND

Hospitals and health systems are using the Acute Hospital Care at Home to provide safe, high quality, hospital-level services in patients' homes. Specifically, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) waiver program to allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive acute-level health care services in their home environment during the COVID-19 PHE. Hospitals and health systems across 34 states are currently participating in this waiver program. See these models of care delivery in action at the linked videos of [patient testimonials](#), [leveraging of technology](#) and [provider feedback](#).

Studies comparing similarly situated patients receiving acute hospital care in the home versus the traditional hospital setting have repeatedly shown that this model of care is safe, cost-effective and valued by patients. Patients in hospital at home programs have fewer readmissions and returns to the emergency department, higher patient-reported outcomes and patient satisfaction, and significantly lower use of skilled nursing facility-care. These benefits hold true for economically advantaged and disadvantaged patients alike.

The waiver program has demonstrated positive outcomes, experiences, and potential cost savings, and it has reinforced the need for broader adoption of advanced care at home. Additional information about the program—including the application process and required data submission—is available [here](#).

PROBLEM

The waiver flexibilities that enable this model of care delivery are tied to the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The PHE is currently slated to run through mid-October 2022. While it may be extended further, the PHE can only be extended in 90 day increments. Patients and their health care providers need greater certainty for this important care delivery option.

SOLUTION

The Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act would ensure that patients and providers have access to these services for **two years beyond the duration of the PHE**. A two-year extension of the AHCAH waiver program is estimated to be budget-neutral, according to an independent analysis by Tom Bradley, the former decades-long head of the Health Systems and Medicare Cost Estimates Unit for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). This bipartisan bill would also require that within one year of enactment, CMS issue regulations establishing health and safety requirements for AHCAH Programs. By extending the waiver program, Congress will both sustain the existing **momentum** and **investment** in the program, as well as allow for additional experience and data collection that can inform the potential of a longer-term payment model for these services in the Medicare and Medicaid program. Without such an extension, much of the ongoing development of acute care at home programs will likely sunset.

REQUEST

Support the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act. Please contact **Anthony Theissen** in Senator Carper's office (anthony_theissen@carper.senate.gov) or **Shayne Woods** in Senator Scott's office (shayne_woods@scott.senate.gov), **Casey Quinn** in Congressman Wenstrup's office (casey.quinn@mail.house.gov), or **Asha Samuel** in Congressman Blumenauer's office (asha.samuel@mail.house.gov) to cosponsor this legislation.

SUPPORT THE HOSPITAL INPATIENT SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT.

The ACH Coalition convenes providers and stakeholders at the fore of the advanced care at home delivery model, advocating for the creation of a pathway to coverage and payment for advanced care services in the home, including the extension of acute care at home flexibilities beyond the duration of the COVID-19 PHE. Our members are pioneers in providing hospital level care in patients' homes and are committed to a high quality, sustainable approach to providing these services now and in the future.