



CPR Members, Affiliates and Friends:

Medicare is currently phasing in a rule that will deny access to intensive inpatient rehabilitation for many individuals with disabilities, injuries or chronic conditions. Your help is needed to ensure appropriate access so such individuals may return to their homes and communities!

BACKGROUND:

The intensive rehabilitative care provided in inpatient rehab hospitals or units allows individuals disabilities, injuries or chronic conditions to regain and maintain their maximum level of function. For many individuals, access to inpatient rehab services is often the difference between returning to community living and being forced into institutional care.

Unfortunately, Medicare's so called "75% Rule" is restricting access to inpatient rehabilitation care by requiring inpatient rehab hospitals or units to maintain a particular percentage of patients with one or more of 13 specified conditions. (Currently that percentage is 60% and will rise to 65% on July 1, 2007 and eventually 75% in 2008.) **In other words, even if a physician finds it medically necessary for an individual to receive inpatient rehabilitative care, an inpatient hospital or unit may have to deny that individual access if they do not have the "right" diagnosis.**

The 75% Rule not only threatens access for individuals who do not have one of the 13 diagnoses, but anyone who may need inpatient rehabilitation services as well. As inpatient rehab hospitals and units struggle to meet their patient "quotas" under the rule, many are being forced to downsize or close their doors altogether. This creates significant access problems for *all* individuals.

Stopgap legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and House (S. 543/H.R. 1459) that would freeze implementation of 75% Rule and prevent additional access problem for individuals requiring inpatient rehabilitation care.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Please call both your Senators and your Representative toll-free via the capitol switchboard at 1-888-281-0661.

Ask that he/she cosponsor the "Preserving Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2007" (S. 543/H.R. 1459) in order to help ensure that individuals with disabilities, injuries, and chronic conditions have access to inpatient rehabilitative services. Let them know that intensive inpatient rehab often allows individuals to regain and maintain their maximum level of independent function so that they can return to their homes and communities!

Please let us know if you have any questions at 202-349-4290.

Thank you for your advocacy!