

Are you aware that there is now a “therapy cap” in effect that limits the amount of outpatient physical therapy Medicare beneficiaries can receive in 2010? The cap arbitrarily applies a combined annual limit of \$1860 for physical therapy and speech therapy. This limit is regardless of how much the Medicare beneficiary may actually need – regardless of their physical and health condition! In many debilitating injuries or illnesses, therapy is needed for extended periods long after this cap has been reached. This will likely affect you or someone you know who needs physical therapy and is on Medicare this year.

The therapy cap has been around since the Balanced Budget Act passed in 1997. In 2006, legislation was passed to end this arbitrary cap and allowed an “exceptions” process if a Medicare beneficiary needed care beyond the arbitrary annual capped amount. In the last few years since, essentially if Medicare beneficiaries needed the physical therapy care, they were eligible to receive it even if it did exceed the annual cap limit. However, the legislation that allowed for this exceptions process expired December 31, 2009, so the annual cap is back, limiting how much care Medicare beneficiaries can receive even if they truly need it.

There are Congressional bills **right now** that will extend the cap exceptions process. The U.S. House health care reform bill (H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act) contains a temporary 2-year extension for 2010 and 2011 and the U.S. Senate health care reform bill (H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) will temporarily extend the cap process for one year.

Ultimately, physical therapists are looking to support legislation that ultimately does away with this arbitrary cap, limiting Medicare beneficiaries’ ability to seek out physical therapy treatment when it is needed. In the short term however, we are looking to support these bills that extend the cap exceptions process.

Please join us in a letter-writing campaign to your legislators to support this bill to overturn the cap. Medicare beneficiaries need and deserve to get the therapy they require to ensure maximum recovery from injury or illness.

We have resources available at our website to assist you in this process. You can visit our website at www.excelphysicaltherapy.com and click on the STOP the MEDICARE CAP button for a link to write Congress a letter. We are providing you a paper copy of this message to Congress as well with this letter, should you prefer.

I hope that you have found this letter informative. If you have any additional questions, feel free to call an Excel clinic near you or call 1-866-88-EXCEL (866-883-9235). Of course, our website is “open” any time.

Yours In Health,



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