



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

OCT - 7 2015

Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns with the proposed Medicare home health payment rate reductions in the calendar year 2016 Home Health Prospective Payment System proposed rule. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) greatly appreciates your bringing these concerns to our attention.

The home health proposed rule was issued on July 6, 2015, with a 60-day comment period that closed on September 4, 2015. We appreciate your concerns and will consider all comments received during the comment period before making a final policy decision and publishing the final rule. CMS will include its ultimate payment rate determinations in the final regulation, along with a summary of the comments received and our responses. The final regulation is expected to be issued by November 1, 2015.

I appreciate your interest in these important issues as we work towards our mutual goal of strengthening the Medicare program for all beneficiaries. I will also provide this response to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Slavitt".

Andrew M. Slavitt
Acting Administrator