



From LHC Group CEO, Keith Myers

Industry News

Beginning January 1, 2011, physicians and medical facilities face a 23 percent cut in the amount Medicare will pay for a variety of services, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In addition, home health providers face a 4.89% reduction in [Medicare reimbursement in 2011](#).

As leaders and providers in healthcare, we can view this continuing trend in tightening Medicare reimbursements with concern, or we can take it as a sign that a new direction and new ideas are needed. We can view it as one more in a continuing trend of challenges to continue to provide quality care for our patients. Or, we can see it as an opportunity to come together as an industry and create solutions.

In my opinion, challenges have always been the source of innovative breakthroughs in healthcare. They can bring out the best in us as industry leaders. We at LHC Group believe that new solutions are not only possible, but necessary. The evidence is already available and widely published. During the three-year period between 2005 and 2007, early home health use was associated with a \$2.65 billion reduction in Medicare post-hospitalization costs. ([From Medicare Claims Data and Avalere study](#))

Home healthcare works. Post-acute care at home has proven to be a cost-effective and compassionate solution that enables patients recovering from illnesses or injuries to heal in a comfortable and familiar environment, under the care of trained medical professionals and the supervision of their physicians. Our hospital home health partnerships have demonstrated improved patient outcomes along with greater operational efficiencies and a more responsible use of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

There is another milestone that will occur this January. According to Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee, the first wave of [Baby Boomers will turn 65](#), marking the beginning of a dramatic increase of older adults in the United States. Greenlee emphasized that, "By 2030, there will be an estimated 72 million persons aged 65 plus, more than twice the number in 2000." As our country's senior population continues to grow, the need for quality home care will grow with it.

Together, I believe we can create the new models that will strengthen our nation's healthcare system and provide the care that our citizens and patients need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Keith Myers
CEO, LHC Group

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– CMS Announces 2011 Payment Changes For Medicare Home Health Services

– HHS Announces New Federal Support for States to Develop and Upgrade Medicaid IT System

– CMS Issues Proposed Rule on 2011 Home Health Payment Rates; Proposal Includes Many Other Non-Rate Changes

Special Announcements



We are pleased to announce that Donald D. Stelly, former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, has been promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer of LHC Group.

To read the full press release, [click here](#).

New Partners

LHC Group Announces Home Health Joint Venture with Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mount Vernon, Kentucky.

To read the full press release, [click here](#).