



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAHC&H Raises Alarm Over CMS Proposed Rule That Threatens Access to Home Health Care in Texas

Austin, TX — The Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice (TAHC&H) issues the following urgent statement regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Proposed Rule for the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Rate Update and Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program Updates (CMS-1828-P):

TAHC&H is deeply alarmed by the proposed rule, which—if finalized—would slash payments to Home Health Agencies (HHAs) by more than **\$1 billion** in CY 2026. This drastic reduction is based on a flawed cost-calculation methodology and comes at a time when access to home health care is already strained, with many agencies struggling to remain operational amid rising costs and workforce shortages.

As the unified voice for over 1,200 home care and hospice providers across Texas, TAHC&H is gravely concerned that this proposal will accelerate the ongoing decline in Medicare-certified HHAs. Since the codification of the Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM), Texas has seen a **more than 20% decrease** in these agencies—a trend that threatens to leave thousands of vulnerable Texans without essential care.

Medicare Home Health Agencies serve some of the state's most medically fragile populations, including seniors and individuals with disabilities. These providers have already endured disproportionate payment cuts compared to other sectors and continue to receive inflationary updates that fall far short of actual cost increases. The proposed rule would only deepen this disparity, forcing more agencies to close and further limiting access to care that is not only preferred by patients but also proven to reduce costly hospitalizations and institutional stays.

TAHC&H strongly urges CMS to reconsider and withdraw this proposal. The consequences of moving forward with these cuts are clear: diminished access to home-based care, increased strain on hospitals and long-term care facilities, and a devastating impact on the health and well-being of Texas' most vulnerable residents.

We call on policymakers, stakeholders, and the public to join us in opposing this rule and protecting the future of home health care in Texas.

##TAHC&H has championed the collective interests of Texas home care and hospice agencies, organizations, and individual professionals since its founding in 1969. Its mission, to advocate for ethical practices, quality, and economic viability of licensed providers in Texas joins together member organizations and individuals in a shared commitment to every citizen in need of quality, affordable in-home services.

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