

Submitter : Mrs. Deborah Brigham Date & Time: 09/23/2004 04:09:47

Organization : Mrs. Deborah Brigham

Category : Other Practitioner

Issue Areas/Comments

GENERAL

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I would like to state my opposition to the possibility that only pt's will be allowed to administer therapy to patients of physicians. I have been a professional massage therapist for over twenty years and I can whole heartedly vouch for the value of massage and its tremendous therapeutic benefit to individuals suffering from musculoskeletal injuries and stress. The rigors of our credentialing process from state to state assures clients the highest quality and standards in our treatments. Please reconsider this issue. Thank you, Deborah Brigham

Submitter : Date & Time:
Organization :
Category :

Issue Areas/Comments**GENERAL**

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Jennifer Groeber
623 Glen Echo Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19119

October 4, 2004

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS- 4068-P
P.O. Box 8014
Baltimore, MD 21255-8014

Bruce F. Groeber is my forty-three year old brother Butchie. He is severely retarded and is dependent on Medicaid and Medicare in order to treat the many health issues we have struggled to mediate through medication including: seizure disorder, secundum atrial sept defect, esophagol reflux, severe constipation, undescended testicles, acute peptic ulcers and severe mental retardation due to a chromosomal anomaly (unbalanced 12/21 translocated chromosome). The following perscriptions have been imperative to maintaining a quality life: mysoline, digoxin, miralax, imipramine, valium, furosemide, peganone, carafate, metoclopramide and omeprazole.

I am very worried about the Medicae plans that will change the way my brother Butchie will receive prescription medication. Currently, all of the prescription medications Butchie takes are paid for by Medicaid. The federal government's plans for Medicare formulary will restrict his access to necessary medications and will make what is already a challenging fight for survival truly overwhelming.

I wish you could meet my brother. He looks like his four siblings but also distinctly different. His body is ravaged by scars from open heart surgery, operations on his legs and repeated operations on his esophagus. Each year Butchie continues to live, the doctor's have assured us is a gift. Through him we, his siblings, have learned empathy for others. We have chosen career paths where we can work directly with people in need, in part I'm sure, because of the lessons Butchie's life has taught us.

Butchie cannot afford to pay for these medications if they are not formulary. I am worried that when this new Medicare system starts on January 1, 2006 Butchie won't receive all the medications he needs, and he will suffer. He should not have to pay a co-pay for each medication under the new Medicare plan when he doesn't have to pay anything to get medication under the Medicaid system. The potential increase in cost each year is also an impending hardship.

Congress could not have intended to have my brother Butchie suffer under this new Medicare drug plan and yet that is exactly what will happen to my brother along with all the dual eligibles unless you can work to remedy this situation. If the new Medicare drug plan does not cover the specific medications that the dual eligibles need to keep them healthy, then they should be allowed to have their medications provided through the Medicaid system without having to pay for them. You hold in your hands the ability to ease the suffering of Butchie (Bruce F. Groeber), not a nameless, faceless person, but a loved and honored member of my family. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Jennifer Groeber

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