

WSRC Committee Report

Committee: Legislative

Person Completing report: Laura Grennier

Date: September 11th 2007

Summary of Report for Web Site (50 words or less):

New Reimbursement for Medicare:

The eight conditions for which Medicare no longer will reimburse hospitals for treatment include: falls; mediastinitis, an infection that can develop after heart surgery; urinary tract infections that result from improper use of catheters; pressure ulcers; and vascular infections that result from improper use of catheters.

Thoughts about importance of VAP (preventable infection) and proper technique when putting in arterial lines to decrease chance of infection.

The rule, proposed by CMS in April and mandated by a 2005 law, will take effect in October 2008. CMS officials said that next year they plan to add three additional conditions to the list.

Senate bill S329

Would make Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation a permanent part of the Medicare benefit. The Senate bill has 33 co-sponsors, including strong support from members of the Senate Finance Committee, the committee with jurisdiction over Medicare.

HR 552

On July 26-27, 2007 the House Ways & Means Committee and the House Energy & Commerce Committees recommended Medicare legislation that does NOT include HR 552, a bill that would formally establish pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation as a Medicare benefit. This is despite 130 co-sponsors of the bill in the House of Representatives. This House action will need to be reconciled with Senate in a formal conference between the house and senate.

feingold.senate.gov/contact_opinion.html

kohl.senate.gov/gen_contact.html

I will be meeting with Carol Prothero so she can help update me on things she was working on.

Committee Chairs/Officers

Date	Activity	Discussion

Board Participation

Dates of Meetings Attended

06/07/07, 08/09/07 (teleconference)

Other report Items: