Protecting the Future of In-home Hospital Services Post-Public Health Emergency

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it many challenges to hospitals, health care providers, and patients living with chronic and complex conditions. With the issuance of a Public Health Emergency (PHE) by the federal government came the Acute Hospital at Home (HaH) <u>waiver</u>, which allowed hospitals to provide 24/7 in-home care to patients with complex needs. However, when the PHE ends, unless Congress acts to pass <u>bipartisan legislation</u> to extend the HaH program, these services will become less available to patients in need.

The results of the HaH waiver program are quite <u>extraordinary</u> as people with complex conditions previously requiring hospital admission are now able to receive high quality, timely care from the comfort of their own homes, providing hospitals with additional capacity for the sickest patients and preventing patients from unnecessary hospitalizations and associated negative outcomes.

Extending the HaH waiver will provide the necessary assurances to hospitals and health plans to invest in the long-term success of in-home hospital care and allow for additional data collection. This will inform the potential for a longer-term solution to provide these services through Medicare and Medicaid and ensure patients in need continue to receive necessary, patient-centered care.

The future of in-home hospital services post-PHE is in peril without Congressional action. We urge you to contact your Members of Congress to pass the <u>bipartisan legislation</u> to extend the HaH program and ensure that these critical services remain for patients with complex needs.