

Dear patients, family and friends,

Medicare and Congress have created a rule that will negatively affect care as of October 1, 2013. The rule states that a physician signature will be needed for you to obtain items such as blood sugar machines and supplies, hospital beds, nebulizers and more.

Currently, a Nurse Practitioner is able to sign for these items. Nurse Practitioners are still willing to sign for these items; however, Medicare and Congress have decided that a physician should sign a form stating that your Nurse Practitioner or physician assistant have met face to face with you (basically an office visit) to determine that the equipment is necessary. The physician is not required to see or evaluate you and can receive a \$15.00 payment for their services.

Treatment will be delayed while the physician signature is obtained. Medicare dollars will be used to pay the physician for the signature.

Please take a minute to write your congressman and speak out against this unnecessary restriction to your care. The link below will take you to a site to send your email to congress. You will need to enter your zip code, the site will tell you who your congress persons are and will give you a template for a letter--please customize it to state how this unnecessary law will affect you! Thank you.

<http://www.capwiz.com/aanp/home/>