

Generating Support - Grass Roots  
and Grass Tops  
“Medicare Respiratory  
Therapy Initiative”

# “Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative”

Moderator

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# GOAL

Inspire respiratory therapists, patients and physicians to generate support for the “Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative” prior to the AARC Capitol Hill Lobby Day taking place March 9-10, 2009. Continue support for initiative after March Lobby Day.

# Objectives

- Educate participants on the “Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative”
- Provide the rationale to gain grassroots and grass tops support
- Direct you to resources available to support rationale
- Provide PACT members with “local” support prior to their scheduled face-to-face meetings
- Educate you on the PACT agenda for 2009

# Presenter

Miriam O'Day

AARC Legislative Affairs

# "ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL"

(Former) Speaker of the United States  
House of Representatives Tip O'Neill

435 members of the House of  
Representatives

100 US Senators

Representative Democracy

# How things get done in Washington

Critical Mass - Grass Roots

Grass Tops - local district meetings

somebody knows somebody who knows  
somebody...

*its not what you know - its not who you know - its what you know about  
who you know - Make it personal*

Demonstrated Need - Compelling Argument

\$\$ - AARC Political Action Committee (PAC)

Is it Germane?

# How things get done in Washington

## Committees

Committees of jurisdiction over Medicare issues

House Ways and Means

House Energy and Commerce

Senate Finance Committee

## State Delegations

View them as a whole

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Legislators must be educated about the profession and the impact of pulmonary disease on individuals

Legislators cannot support legislation unless they know it exists

Legislators need to know about constituent support

Always make it personal

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

## 111th Congress

House Bill - HR 1077

Primary Sponsor - Mike Ross (D-AR)

Senate Bill - S 343

Primary Sponsors

Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)

Mike Crapo (R-ID)

# AARC 2009 Legislative Agenda PACT Meeting

Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

CDC COPD Program and Action Plan

Appropriations Request with Professional  
Judgment

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

The Medicare program is divided into Parts A-D

Part A hospital inpatient services

Part C deals with managed care

Part D is the prescription drug benefit

Part B includes medical services generally delivered in the outpatient setting by physicians', and non-physician practitioners (PA, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and PT) but does not include respiratory therapists

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Amends Medicare law to permit RRTs with a bachelor degree to work under general physician supervision

These RTs could provide their scope of practice without the physician having to be on site under Medicare Part B

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

If enacted qualified RRT with a bachelors degree will be able to provide services for the Medicare patient

Bachelors degree does not have to be in respiratory therapy

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

## Impact

### Physician offices:

Patients have greater access to respiratory therapists

Physician does not have to be present

- Smoking cessation

- Disease Management

- Asthma Management

- Equipment Education for Technology Dependent Patients

- MDI/DPI device selection and patient medication education

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

RT letters/emails/calls and faxes are essential

This is an RT bill - RT support is expected

When patients or other health care professionals, especially physicians weigh in with support, that gets the legislators attention

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

The Future of Respiratory Therapy:

Current law does not permit independent practice or billing

This initiative does not permit independent practice or billing

85% of Physician Fee Schedule

Details of Implementation will be negotiated with CMS in a regulatory process

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

The Future of Respiratory Therapy:

Allows data collection to evaluate outcomes and substantiate the value of respiratory therapists in the entire array of non-hospital sites

This type of outcome data will enhance the entire profession of respiratory therapy and all respiratory therapists

# What Can you do to help generate support?

Every state respiratory society participates in the 435 Plan

Which means you have access to RTs willing to step up the political activity and with a pulmonary patient contact

Some states have deeper coverage than others, but all have them

Get to know your State Delegation

Help your PACT representatives show up in Washington and have staff and members prepared to greet them

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Reach out to your 435 members and have them contact the pulmonary patients and physicians they know

Communicate to your members at large to work their contacts in the community and physician allies

Prepare a letter from the State Society

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Individual Patients and Family Members

Patient Groups

Explain Expanded Access to Care

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Resources

<http://www.aarc.org/>

Government Affairs

Capitol Connection

Easily identify your representative

Send RT correspondence

<http://www.yourlunghealth.org>

Send Patient Letters

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Cost Estimate

Reliable Outside Source

FAQ

One Page for Congressional Staff

Dear Colleague Letter

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions:

Scope of Practice and State Licensure  
Allied Health  
Statute and Credentials

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Scope of Practice and State Licensure  
Amendments to Medicare Statute always raise questions about “turf”  
Will RT’s be expanding their scope of practice?  
Who’s territory are we stepping into?

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

## Cost Estimate

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) evaluates federal governments cost for all legislation that is under serious consideration

Many organizations obtain an “outside” score to estimate this cost

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Cost Estimate

United BioSource Corporation

Don Muse and Associates

\$5 million over 5 years

Cost is low due to “self-limiting” benefit -  
credentials

Sources of Data

- Price and Utilization Assumptions CMS 2005 Physician/Supplier Procedure Summary Master File
- Demographic Data from the AARC 2005 National Manpower Survey

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

FAQ

One Page for Congressional Staff

Addresses

Law

Credentialing

Initiative

Substantiates Need

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Community Outreach: [www.yourlunghealth.org](http://www.yourlunghealth.org)

Document that explains issue to consumers

Allows them to take action

Directs them to AARC Website

Launch a Petition - samples at [aarc.org](http://aarc.org)

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Dear Colleague Letter

From Members of Congress to their  
Colleagues

Will be posted on Website when available

Asks for co-sponsorship

“Official” endorsement of RT’s and the  
Initiative

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Asthma

Impact is well documented

Part D Prescription Drug Benefit

Government Investment in Aerosol Medications

Chest - approximately 1/3 of patients do not properly use medications

American Lung Association Data

Pulmonary Disease by State

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Supporting Organizations

American Thoracic Society (ATS)

American College of Chest Physicians  
(ACCP)

AARC Board of Medical Advisors (BOMA)

BOMA is comprised of representative  
organizations

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

COPD

Recasts Emphysema and Tobacco to focus on Chronic Disease

Move from Shame - Blame to prevention, treatment and management

NIH - NHLBI National Education and Awareness Campaign “Learn More Breathe Better”

CDC Program in Chronic Disease Center

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

COPD - is being branded  
Fourth Leading Cause of Death  
Only One in Top Five on the Rise  
12 million diagnosed  
12 million undiagnosed  
One Death Every 4 minutes  
Leading Cause of Disability  
State COPD Action Plans  
National Celebrity Spokesperson

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

COPD Foundation [copdfoundation.org](http://copdfoundation.org)

COPD Alert [copd-alert.com](http://copd-alert.com)

Alpha-1 Foundation [www.alphaone.org](http://www.alphaone.org)

Alpha-1 Association [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org)

NTM Info & Referral [ntminfo.org](http://ntminfo.org)

AANMA - Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics [aanma.org](http://aanma.org)

American Lung Association [lungusa.org](http://lungusa.org)

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Copies to State PACT representatives

Copies to AARC

[oday@aacrc.org](mailto:oday@aacrc.org)

[west@aacrc.org](mailto:west@aacrc.org)

Letters to the Editor - Generate local press coverage

# Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

Get into Action:

Let's share information

Tell us about your success

Tell us about your ideas

Document it

[Oday@aacrc.org](mailto:Oday@aacrc.org)

[West@aacrc.org](mailto:West@aacrc.org)