



WORDS TO THE WISE

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If you have clients who need assistance with finding the right place for their ill family member to live and determining how to pay for it,
we can assist them with becoming eligible for Medicaid.

If you have clients who are unable to care for themselves and make their own decisions,
we can assist their loved ones with becoming their guardian.

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MEDICARE TO REQUIRE PRE-APPROVAL FOR CERTAIN HOME MEDICAL DEVICES

Starting February 28th of this year, Medicare will require pre-authorization for certain home medical supplies and devices, such as oxygen, sleep apnea, power wheel-chairs, some hospital beds, and other related items. Medicare estimates that by using pre-authorization requirements, it will save \$10 million this year and up to \$100 million in 2025, all without hurting patient care. However, critics contend that many of these devices prevent the patient from being readmitted to the hospital and that delaying patient care will cause the patients to suffer. Medicare also estimates that it improperly paid \$1 billion for home medical devices from April 2006 through March 2007, at least partly due to fraud.

Source: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
<http://www.post-gazette.com/business/healthcare-business/2016/01/18/Medicare-to-tighten-requirements-for-many-home-medical-devices/stories/201601170103>

MEDICARE INCREASES NUMBER OF ACOs

Medicare has announced the creation of 121 new Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). ACOs are networks of doctors and hospitals that collaborate and coordinate to better serve patients who have chronic medical conditions. ACOs also are designed to improve quality, while lowering costs. Part of their payments from Medicare is based on how well they meet these goals. For example, ACOs will make sure that patients have regular follow up doctor visits and take their medications. Approximately, one in four Medicare beneficiaries or 8.9 million beneficiaries will now receive care through an ACO. There are different types of ACOs depending on the level of financial risk that the individual ACO endures. Only those in traditional Medicare and not a Medicare Advantage plan can participate in an ACO.

Source: Seattle Times
<http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/medicare-expands-coordinated-care-for-beneficiaries/>