

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Singleton</i>	DATE <i>9-3-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000093</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>9-11-13</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Heck, Kost</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
<i>cleared 9/11/13, letter attached</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Chip Huggins

District No. 85 - Lexington County
308 Wayworth Court
Columbia, SC 29212

Committee:

Ways and Means

Subcommittees:

Economic Development
and Natural Resources
Property Tax



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

323-B Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201
Work Tel. (803) 732-2000
Statehouse Tel. (803) 734-2971
Fax (803) 734-0103

RECEIVED

SEP 03 2013

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

August 29, 2013

The Honorable Anthony E. Keck, Director
SC Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Anthony
Dear Mr. Keck:

I have enclosed a letter that I received from my constituent, Mrs. Rosalyn J. Hudson of 249 Moonlight Drive, Columbia, SC 29210. In her letter, she has concerns regarding the cuts to the centers for Medicare and Medicaid End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) services and how this will affect patients who need this service.

I would appreciate it if you would address these concerns for Mrs. Hudson and others. I look forward to hearing from you soon and please respond to Mrs. Hudson also.

Thank you for all you do for our citizens. If I can ever be of assistance, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Huggins".

Chip Huggins

*Have a
Good Labor
Day!*

CH/jhm/August/29/13/1

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Rosalyn J. Hudson, 249 Moonlight Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Business e-mail: chip@duraclean.net
Statehouse e-mail: chiphuggins@schouse.gov
24-Hour Hotline (803) 331-8468

August 6, 2013

Dear Representative Huggins

I am your constituent and a dialysis patient receiving dialysis treatments three times a week to stay alive. I am deeply concerned about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposal to slash the Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program. Dialysis is a lifeline for someone like me who has kidney failure. I need your help.

My dialysis facility has many of your constituents who are Medicare beneficiaries like I am. We rely on Medicare to pay for our 3- to 4-hour dialysis treatments as well as certain drugs, labwork, and other services. Deep cuts to payments will have a critical impact on all patients and the care we receive. Because I have several different medical conditions that complicate my health care, I rely heavily on the nurses and staff at dialysis clinics to monitor my conditions. These people help keep me out of the hospital.

Adequate Medicare funding is vital to provide quality care. Medicare payment already falls short of covering the cost of dialysis—cutting nearly 10% from the program is unacceptable and will hurt hundreds of thousands of people like me who depend on dialysis to stay alive.

Medicare has made a promise to protect people with kidney failure to, at a minimum, cover the cost of care. I need you to ensure that this cut does not happen.

Please protect people with kidney failure who depend upon dialysis treatments to live by making sure that the total payment amount for dialysis services is adequate to cover the cost of providing the life-sustaining treatments and implore CMS to do the same.

Sincerely,



249 Moonlight Dr
Columbia, SC 29208

Chip Huggins
Member, SC House of Representatives
308 Wayworth Court
Columbia, SC 29212

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08/30/2013

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SEP 03 2013

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Anthony E. Keck, Director
SC Department of Health and Human
Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

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Ms. Rosalyn J. Hudson
249 Moonlight Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Ms. Hudson:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) received your letter sent to Representative Chip Huggins concerning the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposal to adjust reimbursements for the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program. We welcome the opportunity to be of assistance.

The ESRD proposed rule is intended to adjust the 2014 ESRD Proposed Payment System (PPS) base rate to reflect changes in the use of ESRD-related drugs and biologics. This proposed change is being implemented to adjust rates to more accurately reflect the cost of services that are included in the ESRD payment bundled rate. The drugs and biologics that are included in the bundle reimbursement rate for ESRD services change over time. If facilities are no longer using drugs currently included in the ESRD payment bundled rate, the compensation needs to be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the change in program service.

The SCDHHS understands the importance of having dialysis treatment services available to the citizens of the State of South Carolina and will continue to work with CMS on this very important issue. We hope that this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ms. Valeria Williams at (803) 898-3477.

Best regards,



Bryan Amick
Pharmacy Director
Director, Clinical Policy & Operations

BA/ar
cc: Representative Chip Huggins