



**“Strength in Unity”... Further Evidenced
Update on the MPPR Collaborative Initiatives**

August 27, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

Less than an hour ago I had the privilege of participating in another productive conference call facilitated by the American Physical Therapy Association, (APTA). The APTA continues to show leadership in efforts to further aggregate and mobilize the efforts of approximately multiple associations and other key stakeholders in response to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Proposed Notice regarding “Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for Calendar Year 2011”. To date, NARA’s premier advocate, George G. Olsen of Williams & Jensen, continues to be instrumental in facilitating and/or participating in this and other high level, impactful collaborative efforts. Additionally, NARA’s Board of Directors, as well as Membership participation via our “MPPR Work Group” has been actively engaged in better understanding and responding to this proposed ruling that can significantly impact the businesses that support quality clinical practices of NARA members throughout the nation.

To summarize the most recent conference call referenced above, NARA and other associations were instrumental and appreciated for their responsiveness in contacting legislators and providing critical data more accurately reflecting services provided in the full continuum of care. Specifically, NARA members and other businesses / providers of rehabilitation therapy services provided data representing 3.5 million patient service claims that has and will continue to allow review and conclusive analysis to accurately reflect and better educate CMS and legislators regarding service provision. Additionally, it was noted that vital local “grass roots” education / advocacy efforts by NARA members and other providers / associations were of impact as 67 congressional and 25 senatorial signatures were received to support Congressman Earl Pomeroy’s (D-ND) efforts to address this significant issue with CMS. Nevertheless, the collaborative efforts will continue to educate legislators and other key stakeholders in this process.

As I listened to the stimulating and beneficial discussion this morning I couldn’t help but think that despite the ongoing intensive and collaborative advocacy efforts occurring, we must continue to realize that inevitably, there will be some degree of change to the provision of care that we will need to support and implement in our own businesses. I believe that we all agree on the importance of the ethical and efficient delivery of patient care and therefore, challenge all of you to proactively review your business models to insure that they allow for quality care that can be quantified and articulated in support of the significant value to the lives of millions of individuals.

We thank our respected colleagues, and fellow NARA members, The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) for their ongoing leadership and collaborative efforts. Please continue to consult the NARA website, (www.naranet.org) for continuous updates to this and other matters.



Gregg J. Altobella, MS CCC-SLP
President
National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies
Washington, D.C.