



**Grassroots Alert: Urge Your Member of Congress to Express Concerns with FY 2020 Budget Proposal to Implement Prior Authorization for Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital Services**

**SAMPLE EMAIL**

Dear [Staffer Name],

I am the [insert title] at [insert hospital or unit name] and I am writing to ask for [insert Rep. or Sen. \_\_\_\_'s name] support and to request a personal meeting with [Rep. or Sen. \_\_\_\_'s name]. [Insert hospital / unit] provides medically necessary, inpatient rehabilitation and therapy to patients with conditions such as strokes, neurological impairments, spinal cord injuries, and traumatic injuries that require intensive rehabilitation. Our goal is to provide rehabilitation care that gives patients the opportunity for a quick recovery and enables them to resume an active, productive lifestyle in their home, work, and community. We would specifically like to highlight the value of medical rehabilitation in delivering high-quality care and superior long-term outcomes.

We have major concerns with the Administration's recently released FY 2020 Budget proposal that would expand the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) authority to conduct prior authorization on certain items or services, including inpatient rehabilitation services. Given the complex and urgent medical needs of IRF patients, we believe that instituting a prior authorization system for IRF services will adversely affect patient care and outcomes, while resulting in significant and avoidable costs to the Medicare program.

[Insert hospital or unit name] is worried this will have significant implications for Medicare beneficiaries' access to medically necessary medical rehab care.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet [insert Rep. or Sen. \_\_\_\_'s name] to discuss our concerns in further detail. We would welcome a visit to our rehabilitation hospital/unit or we would be happy to meet in the Congressional office.

Thank you for considering this request, and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
[Name]  
[Title]  
[IRH/U]  
[IRH/U Address]