

The Role of Home Care in a Rebalanced and Affordable Iowa Health Care Delivery System

The Iowa Alliance in Home Care (IAHC) represents home health agencies, and other providers of in-home services, throughout the state of Iowa. Home Care is an essential health care delivery component in a rebalanced and affordable Iowa health care delivery system. Therefore, Home Care must be a legislative priority, including equitable access to financial resources, for the following reasons:

1. **Important** – Home Care services are delivered to a significant and increasing number of Iowans every year. To illustrate this point more than \$75 million in services were provided by Home Health Care providers to Iowans under the state Medicaid program last year alone. However, an increasing portion of these “important” services are uncompensated due to a proposed new Medicaid reimbursement formula and associated funding shortfalls.
2. **Preferred** – It is documented that Home Care is the “preferred” choice for health care delivery by most Iowa consumers. The question easily answered is “Who wouldn’t want to receive health care services in comfort of their own home where they are surrounded by a family and friends support network”? In addition, the management of chronic diseases is another key reason why home health care can be an answer to reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and treatment in Iowa.
3. **Accessible** – For Iowans that meet criteria for in-home services home care providers are readily available in all 99 counties. However, if Medicaid funding is not increased and coverage of in-home services is not provided by other payers then “access” will be compromised.
4. **Affordable** – Where applicable services provided in the Home setting are significantly less costly when compared with other institutional settings. Clearly, appropriate coverage of Home Care services helps keep health care “affordable”.