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Vote to Continue the Successful Hospital at Home Program

Congressional action is required for Texas hospitals to continue operating innovative and effective Hospital at Home programs. Passage of the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act is needed.

More than 200 hospitals, including Parkland Health (Dallas), University Health (San Antonio), and Harris Health (Houston), have permission from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide at-home acute medical care for qualifying inpatients through Hospital at Home.

Temporary waiver in November 2020 of several Medicare Conditions of Participation make Hospital at Home programs possible. Absent Congressional action, program authority expires with the COVID-19 public health emergency.



The Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act, by Sens. Tom Carper (D-Delaware) and Tim Scott (R-South Carolina), would allow Hospital at Home programs to continue, even in the absence of a continued public health emergency. Companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives is sponsored by Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) and Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio).

Hospital at Home programs create additional care capacity while elevating care quality and outcomes.

Key Takeaways:

- Without Congressional action, the Hospital at Home program expires when the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) expires, as early as this July.
- Hospital at Home programs help alleviate emergency department crowding, create additional inpatient capacity, and provide inpatient-level quality care and outcomes for qualifying patients in the comfort of their homes.
- Hospital at Home programs vary according to community need and other operational characteristics but share a commitment to patient needs, quality care, and expanding access.
- Three large public teaching hospitals in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio operate or are planning to operate Hospital at Home programs.

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