



- providing current information on health care industry issues and legislation

Health Care Bill Passes in House

On November 7th, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act" (H.R. 3962) passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 220-215. This bill encompasses three earlier bills passed by various House Committees and includes items such as a Health Insurance Exchange, and the creation of a government run health care plan. The proposal now awaits action in the Senate, which could come sometime in November.

Source CNN

3 Star Provider of the Month



Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers is a premier provider of out-patient physical and occupational therapy for the clients of HHC Group.

With more than 160 centers including 76 in the Metro Chicago / Northwest Indiana market, Accelerated also serves patients in Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, and Michigan.

As a physical therapist owned company, Accelerated provides the same standard of clinical care throughout the system: each center is trained and monitored in Best Practices. Accelerated is able to provide:

- Appointments within 24 – 48 hours
- Real time **Centralized Scheduling** through the dial- in system at 877-97-REHAB or through the website at www.acceleratedrehab.com
- Appointments near the patient's home or place of employment
- A hands-on approach to therapy with one-on-one therapeutic care emphasizing return-to-work and pre-injury performance levels
- Each patient is given, trained and monitored in a home exercise program
- Specialty services such as lymphedema, vestibular, aquatic therapy, hand therapy and women's health care
- Many centers have Spanish and Polish speaking staff as well as a variety of other foreign languages
- The Best Practices allows for quicker return to performance with lower utilization; hence, lower costs.

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THE EFFECT OF THE SWINE FLU EPIDEMIC ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

By Andrew Wahn

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that a severe flu pandemic in the United States could infect 90 million people, result in the death of 2 million and would cause a 4.25 percent drop in the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). Other economists forecast the nation's GDP could decline by as much as six percent. The International Monetary Fund warned that a pandemic could cause some "financially vulnerable" businesses to declare bankruptcy. The Trust for America's Health said a pandemic could push a normal US economic market into a "major recession."

Since people would be avoiding contact with the infected population, airlines would see a decrease in passengers, and shopping malls, theaters, concert halls, restaurants, sporting arenas and schools might close. Mass transit ridership would decrease and businesses would lose productivity due to high absenteeism. Absenteeism could rise to 25 to 35 percent globally. Hospitals would be overloaded with patients.

The CBO estimated a: "80 percent drop in demand in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food service; 67 percent drop in demand for transportation and warehousing; 10 percent drop in demand for agriculture, mining, construction, retail trade, and finance; and 15 percent increase in demand for health care and social assistance."

Some experts believe health care would be negatively affected as fewer people would go to their doctors, in order to save money and stay home to recover. Health care providers could lose money by treating the under and uninsured.

However, according to the World Bank, "...a prompt and transparent public information policy could help reduce the economic costs of an epidemic."

H.H.C. GROUP IMPLEMENTS ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES

As part of a continuing effort to further protect the Personal Health Information of our clients patients, effective immediately, HHC Group will be encrypting all electronic mail communications that contain PHI using the Voltage SecureMail™ System. This system utilizes the latest cryptography technology to allow users to send and receive encrypted e-mails just like they would send or receive regular e-mails. Recipients of encrypted e-mails utilizing this technology will be able to select their own username and password, to allow for seamless access to important data in a timely and cost effective manner. To learn more about how the Voltage SecureMail™ system works, visit www.voltage.com

The examples below demonstrate recent savings achieved through our **Medical Review Program**. If a claim is unusually high and the provider will not negotiate or does not participate in any of our 230 **plus** contracted PPOs, the claim may be a good candidate for a **Line Item or Comprehensive Bill Review**. Please contact your sales representative or Linda Frances Loch, General Manager of Medical Review Programs, at 301-963-0762 ext. 163 or via e-mail at l_loch@hhcgroup.com for more information on these programs.

Medical Review Program Bill Review Examples

Line item bill review savings examples:

Case A: Sleep Apnea w/ Respiratory Issues

Case B: Live Birth with Neonatal Distress

Case C: Extreme Immaturity of Infant

	Bill amount	Recommended Denial	
Case A:	\$12,400.00	\$2,013.85	or 16%
Case B:	\$55,682.85	\$5,687.65	or 10%
Case C:	\$35,535.38	\$28,092.83	or 79%

NEGOTIATION AND REPRICING SAVINGS EXAMPLES

The examples below demonstrate recent savings achieved through our Negotiation and Repricing Services. If you are currently using only one of our many services, contact your sales representative or email j_michaud@hhcgroup.com to find out how to access all of our health care cost containment services.

NOVEMBER 2009 EXAMPLES			
TYPE OF SERVICE	AMOUNT BILLED	% SAVED	SAVINGS
NEGOTIATION	\$129,049.00	34.00%	\$44,049.00
	\$135,581.66	20.00%	\$27,116.33
	\$184,662.41	23.00%	\$42,662.41
	\$14,042.00	75.00%	\$10,503.10
REPRICING	\$33,963.15	20.00%	\$6,792.63
	\$29,411.40	20.00%	\$5,882.28
	\$27,586.68	20.00%	\$5,517.34
	\$33,306.25	15.00%	\$4,995.93

** Repricing through **H.H.C. Group** 3 Star Network

HHS ISSUES FINAL RULES ON HITECH ACT

On October 30th, HHS issued final rules to bring the enforcement regulations of HIPAA in compliance with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These rules increase the civil penalties associated with violations of HIPAA. Interested parties have until December 29, 2009 to comment on the proposed rules. A copy of these rules can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/enforcementrule/enfifr.pdf>

Source: www.hhs.gov

3-Star Preferred Provider Program Additions

One of the strengths of **H.H.C. Group** lies in its relationships with providers. We are pleased to announce the following new program members.

Baltimore Spine Center, Lutherville, MD	Edison Anesthesia at Oak Tree, LLC, Edison, NJ	Jacksonville, FL
Cardiac Association of North Jersey, Oakland, NJ	Fair Lawn Anesthesia Associates, Fair Lawn, NJ	New England Pain Associates, Winchester, MA
Central Illinois Associate/ John M. Furry Decatur, IL	Fraizer-Hart, Inc., Washington, PA	Noel Alentara, MD, Darien, IL
Clara Maass Department, Newark, NJ	Gateway Spine Pain Physicians, Bolingbrook, IL	Rio Grande Anesthesiologists, Brownsville, TX
Clear Brook Inc., Forty Fort, PA	Health Texas Medical Provider, Dallas, TX	Samaritan Pastoral Counseling, Amarillo, TX
Correa Francisco, San Pedro, CA	Jeffrey Shusman, Philadelphia, PA	Sean M. Walpole, Kennett Square, PA
CR Emergency Services, PA, Dallas, TX	Jungle Gym Pediatric Therapy Center, Klamath Falls, OR	Sleep Interpretations Unlimited, Fulshear, TX
Danilo Duenas, MD Las Vegas, NV	Kidney Center of Lubbock, Lubbock, TX	Sterling Clinical Laboratory, Langhorne, PA
	Mandarin Ob/Gyn,	Sugar Land 24 Hour Hospital, Sugarland, TX
		Victoria Beracha, North Bergen, NJ

CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional product/services information: visit
www.hhcgroup.com or 301-963-0762 ext. 110.

Repricing support/assistance: please contact
appeals@hhcgroup.com or 301-963-0762 ext. 212.

Medical Review Program support/information: please contact
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