

## **Talking Points: Support the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act to Extend Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver Flexibilities**

- The Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) waiver program was implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive acute-level health care services in their home environment during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE).
- The [waiver program](#) has allowed hospitals and health systems across the country to meet increased capacity demands during the pandemic, while providing safe, high-quality care in patients' homes where they can be supported by their friends and family.
  - To date, nearly 200 hospitals and health systems in 34 states have received the waiver.
- Hospital at home programs have existed in the US since the 1990s and studies have repeatedly shown that this model of care is safe, cost-effective and valued by patients.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, the waiver program has demonstrated positive outcomes, experiences, and potential cost savings, and it has reinforced the need for broader adoption of acute care at home—where appropriate—in federal health care programs.
- The AHCAH waiver program and necessary telehealth flexibilities are tied to the existence of the PHE. This creates uncertainty for patients and their health care providers as it must be renewed every 90 days.
- The Advanced Care at Home (ACH) Coalition is advocating for a long-term, sustainable model to deliver advanced care services in patients' homes.
- **The ACH Coalition supports the Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act**, legislation advanced by Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Tim Scott (R-SC), both members of the Senate Finance Committee.
- This bipartisan bill would extend the existing AHCAH waiver program for two years from the date the PHE ends. In addition, within one year of enactment, the bill would also require CMS to issue regulations establishing health and safety requirements for AHCAH Programs.
- This legislation would provide needed certainty, in order to sustain the existing momentum and investment in the program, as well as allow for additional experience and data collection that can inform the potential of a longer-term CMS payment model for these services.
- The Coalition encourages broad support for this legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hospitalathome.org/about-us/history.php> and <https://www.hospitalathome.org/about-us/safety-quality.php>