

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 26, 2025

The Honorable Dr. Mehmet Oz  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Dr. Oz:

We write today asking for the end of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Review Choice Demonstration (IRF RCD) before it is further expanded and impacts our rehabilitation hospitals and patients in Texas. The program, initiated under the prior Administration, is already operating in Alabama and Pennsylvania.

The IRF RCD program requires that hospitals submit clinical paperwork for every single Fee-for-Service Medicare patient entering a rehabilitation hospital for approval by a third-party government contractor prior to filing a claim for Medicare coverage. Despite the fact hospitals in Alabama and Pennsylvania have shown strong compliance under the demonstration, extending the program would impose added administrative burden on rehabilitation providers.

In Fiscal Year 2024, there were over 70,000 Medicare Fee-for-Service patient stays for inpatient rehabilitation care in Texas across 144 IRFs. These patients, who have already been deemed to meet Medicare coverage criteria by a trained rehabilitation physician before admission, need the particular level of care provided by the IRF in order to recover after life-altering illnesses and injuries with the goal of returning back to their communities and maximizing their functional independence.

CMS data show affirmation rates of about 91% across the demonstration states, with Pennsylvania more recently reporting rates above 95%. These results confirm strong provider compliance with Medicare standards. Because the program has not uncovered evidence of fraud, we believe it has achieved its intended purpose and should not be extended to Texas, where it would impose unnecessary burden on hospitals and staff.

We respectfully urge CMS to conclude the IRF RCD demonstration and refrain from expanding it to Texas. Ending the program will allow providers to focus on delivering high-quality rehabilitation services and will align with this Administration's commitment to reducing unnecessary regulatory burden in health care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen Medicare and ensure beneficiaries have access to the care they need.

Sincerely,

  
Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



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Nathaniel Moran  
Member of Congress



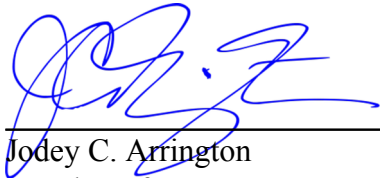
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Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



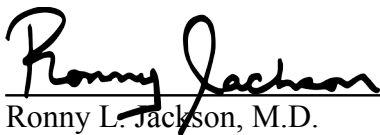
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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



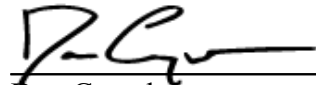
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Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



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Craig A. Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress



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Keith Self  
Member of Congress



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Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



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Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



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Brandon Gill  
Member of Congress



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John R. Carter  
Member of Congress



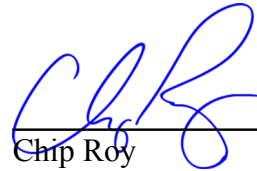
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Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



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Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



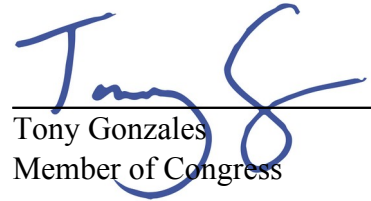
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Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



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Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



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Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress