Nebraska Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Network

Day on the Hill Report

March 5-7, 2018

Two representatives from the Nebraska Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Network attended the Day on The Hill in Washington D.C. as part of the contingent sponsored by the American Association of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Network.

Buddy Goodenkauf, MS, Supervisor of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation at CHI Health St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln Nebraska and Carey Krepel, RRT, Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation at CHI Health Plainview Nebraska were the attendees.

The focus of the visit was to thank our representatives from both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House for sponsoring and signing H.R. 1155/S that was included in the passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 2018 on February 9, 2018 allowing non-physician provider coverage in cardiac rehabilitation that will go into effect January 1, 2024.

The primary message related to the representatives was to request sponsorship and support for creating a solution changing Section 603 of the Balanced Budget Act of 2015 that included Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation reimbursement as a Physician Fee Schedule instead of a Hospital Outpatient based service in off-site campuses located more than 250 yards from an existing hospital. Reimbursement fees are significantly affected by this schedule.

Buddy and Carey met with Adrian Smith who is a ranking member of the Ways and Means committee. The visit was highly productive as Congressman Smith visited with the team for 45 minutes. He graciously listened to our concerns and request then proceeded to discuss other Healthcare issues regarding childhood obesity, elder care and the overall aspect of Healthcare in the nation.

The next scheduled visit was with Senator Ben Sasse. We met with his Legislative aid and left his office after discussing our request and leaving written communication with his staff.

The last visit scheduled was with Senator Deb Fischer. We were unable to personally speak with Senator Fischer as she had been called out to a rescheduled committee meeting. We did meet with her Legislative Aid and left written information with her staff.

On Wednesday, March 7, 2018 we attended the annual Nebraska Breakfast after which Congressman Jeff Fortenberry’s Chief of Staff discussed our request for a brief period.

Thanks to Buddy Gudenhauf who scheduled visits and completed the follow-up communication to the representatives and their staff. He has worked diligently to contact the representatives and their staff in order to keep them informed of current issues occurring within the AACVPRNCVPR and the effect it has on our cardiopulmonary rehabilitation participants both physically and financially.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carey Krepel