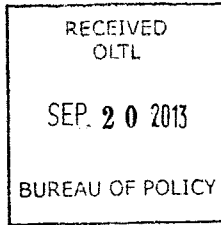


September 16, 2013

3019

14-535-7

Marilyn Yocum
Department of Public Welfare
Office of Long-Term Living
Bureau of Policy and Regulatory Management
P. O. Box 8025
Harrisburg, PA 17805-8025



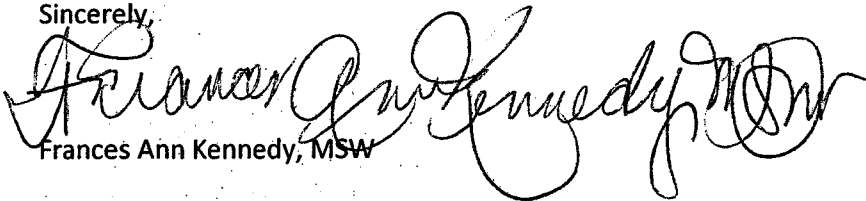
Re: Regulation No. 14-535 (Supplemental Ventilator Care Payment for Medical Assistance Nursing Facilities)

Dear Ms. Yocum,

My name is Frances Ann Kennedy and I am a social worker in Norristown, PA. I am writing you to discuss medical assistance reimbursement for ventilator facilities. I am the social worker for the general medical floor and also for the intensive care unit and cardiac pulmonary unit. I work with patients who are on ventilators, trach collars and their families. The facilities in Montgomery County that can accommodate ventilators and high flow trach collars are limited. Families are often overwhelmed with facility decision because of either distance and insurance coverage. Families want the best care for their loved ones. Facilities, such as Clara Burke, need the support to keep their facilities open to provide the care that ventilator and trach collar patients need after post hospital care. I believe that without ventilator facilities, ventilator patients at the hospital will stay longer and possibly acquire hospital infections because of their length of stay and the very limited ventilator facility possibilities. Please consider the proposed regulation for added stipends for these ventilator facilities as they play an important role for patients and their for their families with their current medical conditions.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Frances Ann Kennedy, MSW

2013 SEP 23 PM 3: 27

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IRRC