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P H Y S I C I A N S

October 2, 2003

**Sam Giordano**  
**Executive Director**  
**American Association for Respiratory Care**  
11030 Ables Lane  
Dallas, TX 75229

Dear Sam:

On behalf of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), and the Home Care and Respiratory Care NetWorks, I want to express our support for the recognition of services provided by respiratory therapists under the Medicare home health services benefit. The ACCP recognizes the important role respiratory therapists play in the treatment of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and the contribution they make in maximizing the functioning of these patients.

An increasing number of patients with chronic pulmonary diseases may be treated and cared for outside of the hospital environment – particularly in the home. While the advancements in respiratory medicine and technology have permitted greater care site options, the Medicare program has not kept pace with these changes.

The ACCP believes that the Medicare program should allow home health agencies the option of utilizing health care providers in a flexible manner in order to achieve maximum quality of care and cost efficiencies. This flexibility should include allowing respiratory therapists, where authorized by a physician as part of a home health plan of care, to provide respiratory therapy services that would otherwise be provided by nurses or physical therapists.

We support the AARC's efforts to amend current Medicare statutes to permit home health agencies to utilize the services of respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Udaya Prakash".

**Udaya Prakash, MD, FCCP**  
**President**

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