

Your Help is needed! This could be our last chance this year!

With Majority Leader Harry Reid's introduction of the Senate's merged health care reform bill, the Senate debate on health care reform has begun.

Senators Kerry (D-MA), Wyden (D-OR) and others have filed an IVIG access amendment to the bill. The amendment is based on S. 701, the Medicare Patient IVIG Access Act, but scaled back. The summary of the bill can be seen by clicking here: [Summary of Kerry/Wyden et al. IVIG Amendment](#), and the actual wording can be seen here: [Kerry/Wyden et al. IVIG Amendment](#). It establishes a three year demonstration project that would authorize payment for the items and services necessary to infuse IVIG in the home setting.

IDF supports this amendment as the only viable means to strengthen the Medicare Part B home infusion benefit for the next few years. Current law does not allow coverage of nursing services and therefore Medicare patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases (PIDD) do not have access to IVIG home infusion. Currently, Medicare will pay for the plasma product, but not pay for the items and services for a home infusion, making the benefit ineffective. Passage of this amendment can mean the difference between Medicare patients with PIDD receiving treatment or not.

Also, the Kerry/Wyden et al. amendment requires additional studies on IVIG access and reimbursement, including an update of the February 2007 government report entitled "Analysis of Supply, Distribution, Demand and Access Issues Associated with Immune Globulin Intravenous (IGIV)."

The end of the health care reform process is near. Please contact your Senators to urge them to help address IVIG access in health reform. [CLICK HERE](#) to use IDF's Action Alert to ask your Senators to support the Kerry/Wyden et al. IVIG Access Floor Amendment.