ARN Supports Preserving Access to Quality Rehabilitation Services

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is a professional nursing organization representing more than 5,000 rehabilitation nurses and more than 14,000 Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurses (CRRN). ARN promotes and advances professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

Preserve Access to Quality Rehabilitation Services

In the current chaotic and rapidly changing health care delivery system in this country, individuals with disabilities and chronic illness are especially vulnerable. In order to provide the highest quality of care to individuals, it is essential that any health care reform efforts ensure the patient receives the right care at the right time in the right setting. Previous failure to assess the appropriate site of care for post-acute care (PAC) services based upon the patient's needs has contributed to an adverse number of hospital readmissions.

The goal of rehabilitation is to restore those mental and/or physical abilities lost to disease so as to improve the patient's functional level. As policymakers undertake efforts to provide higher quality, more affordable care as well as to improve the overall health of the community, proposals should continue to facilitate access to rehabilitation services that maintain and restore function and prevent complications; as well as increase each's patient access to equipment and supplies to maximize function, independence and social well-being.

Recommendation: ARN supports efforts to ensure that individuals with disabilities and/or chronic illness have access to comprehensive, quality care in the setting that is most appropriate for them.

If you have additional questions about these issues please contact ARN's Health Policy Associate, Jeremy Scott (202/872-6734 or Jeremy.Scott@PowersLaw.com).