

Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

Hospital Participation in the Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver Program

Hospital-at-home programs deliver care for acute medical illness to selected patients in their home in lieu of traditional hospital admission. The growth of hospital-at-home programs in the US progressed slowly until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) program in November . Through this program, hospitals may apply to CMS for a waiver that allows them to receive full diagnosis-related group payments for hospital-at-home admissions. The goals of the program were to mitigate the hospital capacity crisis exacerbated by the COVID- pandemic and protect patients with non-COVID- illness who required hospital care.

Initially set to expire in December , Congress extended the AHCAH waiver through the end of . Bipartisan legislation was recently introduced that would extend the waiver



