

Aerospace Medical Association

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Executive Director
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Association Home Office

Ms. Nancy - Ann Min DeParle
Director, HCFA
HHH Bldg., Room 314G
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

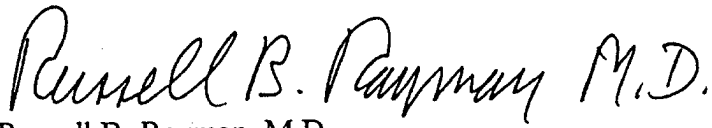
Dear Ms. DeParle:

I am writing to you as Executive Director of the Aerospace Medical Association, a professional organization of 3,400 physicians in the practise of aerospace medicine and hyperbaric medicine as well as scientists engaged in related research.

It has come to our attention that HCFA, according to the Medicare Coverage Issues Manual published in April 1999, will impose specific credentialing and continuing medical education requirements on physicians providing hyperbaric oxygen services. We feel strongly that such an intrusion into the credentialing/CME process is unnecessary and would serve no useful purpose. Professional credentialing and physician privileging for all medical specialties and subspecialties are already regulated by the American Board of Medical Specialties, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, medical associations and societies, states, and hospitals. (In the case of hyperbaric medicine, the American Board of Preventive Medicine is the credentialing authority.)

Consequently, we urge you to abandon efforts to impose credentialing and continuing medical education requirements on physicians providing hyperbaric oxygen services. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director

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