

Associations Ask NY Delegation to Address “Observation Stay” Issue

LeadingAge New York has joined with other provider associations to ask New York’s federal lawmakers to co-sponsor proposed legislation to address increased use of observation stays in hospitals.

In an Oct. 18 letter, LeadingAge NY and its association partners asked members of the NY congressional delegation to co-sponsor legislation (S. 818/H.R. 1543) which would count hospital observation days towards the minimum three-day inpatient stay needed to qualify for Medicare Part A covered skilled nursing facility (SNF) care. Currently, when a Medicare beneficiary is placed “under observation” in a hospital rather than being admitted, any observation days do not count towards the three-day stay. This often leaves beneficiaries without Medicare SNF coverage.

At this point, only three members of the NYS House delegation (Bishop, Hinchey and Tonko) and neither of New York’s Senators have co-sponsored the legislation. **LeadingAge NY members are asked to contact their Congressional representatives as soon as possible and urge them to co-sponsor this important legislation.** [Our advocacy page](#) provides sample letters and other information to assist you. Our memo provides more background on the issue.

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