



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

October 9, 2020

To whom it may concern,

We are staff members with the Division of Complex Health Care at Nationwide Children's Hospital. We care for children and adults with serious neurologic impairments, often with medical fragility due to the need for respiratory and nutritional support.

We write to support improvements in the availability of home nursing for our patients. Home nursing services are integral to their well-being and for their families to care for them at home, rather than in an institutional setting. If home nursing is not available, children may visit the Emergency Department more frequently than necessary and/or remain in the hospital for unnecessarily long periods of time. Over the last two years, we are aware of more than 35 patients in our hospital who remained in the hospital for more than 200 unnecessary days. Unnecessary hospitalization is detrimental to the health and development of children, disrupts family life, and is very costly.

As you know, there is a shortage of qualified pediatric home health providers. There are numerous reasons for this shortage; chief among them is low reimbursement for home health care. The wages available for nurses working in homes is significantly lower than nurses who work in other settings, though home nurses are no less competent or vital to the care of patients.

We strongly suggest that a re-examination of the support that is allocated for home nursing services is needed. We are happy to continue discussions on this important topic as needed.

Very Truly Yours,

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