



March 25, 2009

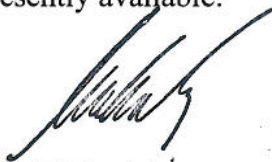
Sent to: editorial@nytimes.com

Reply to: March 23, 2009 Editorial "Costly Home Care"

The Government Accountability Office's Report on home care and your editorial raise serious concerns regarding the use of taxpayer dollars for the provision of home care services. The GAO Report makes numerous references to a Medicare Program weakness in assessing whether the beneficiary is actually receiving the services billed to Medicare. Fortunately, there are existing service monitoring solutions specifically designed for home care.

Home Health Care Telephone Technology has been effectively employed by the public and private sectors to ensure that care is being delivered as intended. In New York City, which has the largest home care program in the country, home care workers have been monitored through telephony using an 800 number with Caller ID. Information is electronically recorded of the time worked and, as important, who didn't report to work.

This technology can be a useful tool to address the concerns raised by the GAO Report. Sometimes there are solutions where government need only implement technology that is presently available.



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