

**SAMPLE PATIENT DENIAL LETTER
VERSION 1—PATIENT-FOCUSED**

[PLACE ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

[ENTER DATE]

The Honorable **[CONGRESSMAN'S FULL NAME]**

[DC OFFICE LOCATION]

[United States Senate] OR [United States House of Representatives }

Washington DC [20510] OR [20515]

Dear **Senator/Representative [ENTER LAST NAME]**,

As you are already aware, the implementation of the 75% Rule continues to move forward. Most recently, **[ENTER FACILITY NAME]** and other rehabilitation providers in **[ENTER STATE]** had to meet a July 1, 2007 deadline by which we had to be 65 percent compliant with the Rule. For the last couple years, we have been attempting to balance the number of qualified patients against the number of unqualified patients in an attempt to meet the discharge planning needs of our major referral sources, which are **[ENTER MAJOR REFERRAL HOSPITALS]**.

If the 75% Rule is fully implemented, more of patients we treat in your district will be denied admission to **[ENTER FACILITY NAME]**. Unfortunately, we are already restricting admissions based on our need to comply with the Rule.

Therefore, regretfully, I need to inform you that one of your constituents, **[CLIENT FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL]** who lives in **[CITY, ZIP CODE]** requested admission to **[ENTER FACILITY NAME]** on **[DATE OF REQUEST]** and although he/she was considered a rehabilitation candidate, he/she was denied admission to **[ENTER FACILITY NAME]** due to our need to comply with the 75% Rule.

And **[CLIENT FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIAL]** is just one of the thousands of patients across the nation who will not benefit from the unmatched care provided at an inpatient rehabilitation hospital.

The 75% Rule has forced us to move from concentrating on treating patients who can benefit from medical rehabilitation services to the day-to-day mechanics of rationing care in order to comply with the Rule. The acute care providers mentioned above are confused about **[ENTER FACILITY NAME]** admission policy because in order to manage the Rule, we literally change our philosophy of whom **we will treat or not treat daily.**

Acute care providers who identify patients in need of rehabilitation services need quick and seamless access to discharge to post acute providers. **We are no longer that resource because of the 75% Rule.**

Congress included a provision in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) that provided temporary relief to our nation's rehabilitation hospitals and units. However, the compliance threshold is still scheduled to increase to 75 percent in 2008. There is no question that that further implementation of the 75% Rule will further restrict the capacity of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units. Congress must take action before the compliance threshold increases and rehabilitation hospitals are forced to further restrict patient access to comply with the law.

The "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2007" (H.R.1459 / S. 543) will help ease this problem by preventing further restrictions in patient access to care. Specifically, the bill would return the threshold to 60 percent for compliance and ensure that appropriate medical necessity standards are utilized when evaluating the need for inpatient rehabilitation care.

We need your leadership to ensure the quality of our nation's health care system and we urgently ask for your help to resolve this issue. **The 75% Rule is not only a problem for [ENTER FACILITY NAME] but for patients across the country.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION NAME]