

TO: Ann Pugh, Chair Committee
CC: Members of the Committee, Rep. Kiah Morris, Laura Pelosia
DATE: April 20, 2016
RE: Drugs and Hospice

Dear Rep. Pugh:

The cost for all drugs and for the delivery of the drugs for our hospice patients is included in the hospice day rate, so the agencies would pay for the new delivery charges. It is my understanding that most opioid prescriptions run for only two weeks or less; the average patient receives three to four deliveries and most hospice patients are on opioids. In 2014, the VNAs of Vermont member hospices served 1,929 Medicare hospice patients (I don't have the totals for Medicaid and private pay).

Sincerely,
Peter Cobb