

Countdown to the



Coalition for Access to Rehabilitation Services

Wednesday, July 31, 2002

153

**... days until the
cap returns**

Ms. Smith (not her real name), a patient living in Newark, NJ, came to her physical therapist after having bilateral (both legs) total knee replacement surgery. Because Ms. Smith suffered cardiac arrest on the operating table, she could not rehabilitate as rigorously as most patients. Her cardiac condition would not allow her to tolerate rehab administered at the same intensity as other patients. Although her potential was good, it would take her longer to get better.

Ms. Smith's physical therapist says that that if the \$1500 therapy cap was currently in place, her therapy would be over before she ever got a chance to develop to her potential. It is likely that she would become chair bound, which defeats the purpose of her surgery and, no doubt, would be detrimental to her cardiac status.

Many elderly and disabled patients do not have the resources to pick up where Medicare leaves off. If the cap were in place, Ms. Smith, and many more like her, would be facing a grim future.

**Repeal the Cap This Year
Co-Sponsor S.1394**

The Coalition for Access to Rehabilitation Services

For further information, please contact Reed Franklin at 202-624-5951

Countdown to the



Coalition for Access to Rehabilitation Services

Thursday, July 18, 2002

166

**... days until the
cap returns**

An elderly woman with Parkinson's Disease was functioning independently until she experienced a significant exacerbation of the disease. She was not hospitalized, but began receiving physical therapy, occupation therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Easter Seals' goal was to help her regain her previous level of functioning, including her ability to speak and swallow. She needed intensive therapy services over a two-week period to address these goals. Under the therapy cap, she would have virtually exhausted her coverage at this point, leaving few resources for therapy to help her walk unassisted, dress herself, or manage her personal care needs.

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