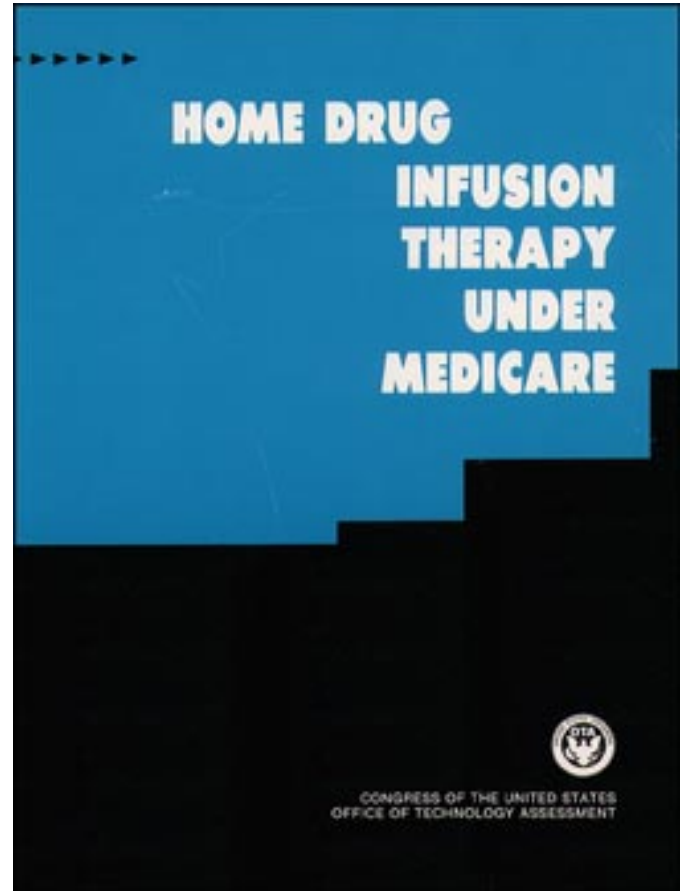


*Home Drug Infusion Therapy Under  
Medicare*

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# Foreword

Home drug infusion therapy (HDIT) is an example of a mode of treatment that involves a multitude of new technologies: innovations in medical equipment and supplies, new drugs and drug protocols, and novel ways of organizing and delivering health care services. The rapid development and diffusion of HDIT is a product of our time; it has bloomed in an era in which the United States has searched with increasing intensity for ways to provide both better and cheaper health care to its citizens.

HDIT holds out the promise of making sophisticated, medically intensive drug therapies available to Medicare patients in their own homes, but the full consequences of a Medicare HDIT benefit are unclear. Because of interest in such a benefit and concern about its potential costs, the Senate Committee on Finance asked OTA to examine Medicare coverage and payment issues relating to this technology. This report was prepared in response to that request.

A related OTA report, *Outpatient Immunosuppressive Drugs Under Medicare*, was released in August 1991.



JOHN H. GIBBONS  
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# Home Drug Infusion Therapy Under Medicare: Discussion of the OTA Draft

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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the workshop participants. The workshop participants do not, however, necessarily either endorse or disagree with the findings and conclusions of this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

## List of Abbreviations

|                 |  |                 |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>AHA</b>      | —American Hospital Association                                 | <b>HHA</b>      | —home health agency   |
| <b>AIDS</b>     | —acquired immunodeficiency syndrome                            | <b>HMO</b>      | —health maintenance organization                                      |
| <b>ALOS</b>     | —average length of stay  | <b>INS</b>      | —Intravenous Nurses Society   |
| <b>AMA</b>      | —American Medical Association                                  | <b>Iv</b>       | —intravenous  |
| <b>ASHP</b>     | —American Society of Hospital Pharmacists                      | <b>JCAHO</b>    | —Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations    |
| <b>AWP</b>      | —average wholesale price                                       | <b>MCCA</b>     | —Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act                                   |
| <b>BC/BS</b>    | —Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association                        | <b>MCP</b>      | —monthly cavitation payment   |
| <b>BCBS/NCA</b> | —Blue Cross and Blue Shield of the National Capital Area       | <b>NABP</b>     | —National Association of Boards of Pharmacy                           |
| <b>CFF</b>      | —Cystic Fibrosis Foundation                                    | <b>NAHC</b>     | —National Association for Home Care                                   |
| <b>CFR</b>      | —Code of Federal Regulations                                   | <b>NAIT</b>     | —National Alliance for Infusion Therapy                               |
| <b>CHAMPUS</b>  | —Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services | <b>NLN/CHAP</b> | —National League for Nursing's Community Health Accreditation Program |
| <b>CHF</b>      | —congestive heart failure                                      | <b>OBRA</b>     | —Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act                                    |
| <b>COP</b>      | —conditions of participation                                   | <b>OIG</b>      | —Office of Inspector General (DHHS)                                   |
| <b>DHHS</b>     | —U.S. Department of Health and Human Services                  | <b>OTA</b>      | —Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress)                      |
| <b>DME</b>      | —durable medical equipment                                     | <b>PCA</b>      | —patient-controlled analgesia   |
| <b>DRG</b>      | —diagnosis-related group                                       | <b>Pharm.D.</b> | —doctor of pharmacy   |
| <b>ESRD</b>     | —end-stage renal disease                                       | <b>PICC</b>     | —peripherally inserted central catheter                               |
| <b>FDA</b>      | —Food and Drug Administration (U.S. Public Health Service)     | <b>PPIC</b>     | —Preferred Physician's Infusion Center, Inc.                          |
| <b>FI</b>       | —fiscal intermediary   | <b>PRO</b>      | —peer review organizations  |
| <b>FR</b>       | —Federal Register  | <b>RN</b>       | —registered nurse   |
| <b>FTE</b>      | —full-time equivalent  | <b>R. Ph.</b>   | —registered pharmacist  |
| <b>GAO</b>      | —General Accounting Office                                     | <b>SNF</b>      | —skilled nursing facility   |
| <b>G-CSF</b>    | —granulocyte colony stimulating factor                         | <b>SSA</b>      | —Social Security Act  |
| <b>GM-CSF</b>   | —granulocyte macrophage-colony stimulating factor              | <b>TPN</b>      | —total parenteral nutrition   |
| <b>HCFA</b>     | —Health Care Financing Administration (DHHS)                   | <b>VNA</b>      | —Visiting Nurses Association  |
| <b>HDIT</b>     | —home drug infusion therapy                                    | <b>VNA-LA</b>   | —Visiting Nurses Association of Los Angeles                           |