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**Issue Areas/Comments**

**Long-Term Care Diagnosis-  
Related Group (LTC-DRG)  
Classifications and Relative Weights**

**Long-Term Care Diagnosis-Related Group (LTC-DRG) Classifications and Relative Weights**

I am currently employed in an LTAC. This is a unique setting (Long Term ACUTE Care). We care for the patient that is not quite sick enough for what is considered an acute care hospital, but certainly meets specific criteria for long term acute care. At any given time, 50% of our patient population is on a ventilator, 25% are undergoing hemodialysis, 75% need wound care and probably close to 100% require IV support for either hydration, antibiotics or hyperalimentation.

We have been successful in returning over 50% of these incredibly sick patients to their home setting. We have a wean rate that is second to none, getting people off of the ventilators when the acute, traditional hospital had deemed that impossible.

We are in the business of giving people back their lives.

Any funding cut will impact these patients. If we can no longer afford to supply the number of nursing and respiratory care hours necessary to provide the level of care necessary to obtain these outcomes, these patients will be lost to the long term "nursing home" facilities. We provide acute care, not custodial care. These patients deserve a chance to recover.