



LYMPHEDEMA PEOPLE.COM

Supports Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act, S.3963

Lymphedema People is an online community and the **voice of 1 million people** with lymphedema. Lymphedema People supports the speedy passage and implementation of the Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services Improvement Act (S.3963).

This Act will allow Medicare beneficiaries who are lymphedema patients to receive services that are already within the scope of Medicare services, most importantly complete decongestive therapy. **This Act will reverse the loss of the more than one-third of the health care professionals who are qualified to provide this important, life saving treatment.**

This important Act will restore our access to quality health care services, and allow physicians to hire the best qualified professionals and then receive reimbursement. Furthermore, this Act will save money by reinstating the ability of lymphedema patients to gain services before hospitalization.

Additionally, the other therapists who will be providing their specialized services under this act have the support of Lymphedema People. **This Act also supports the fair treatment of all qualified health care professionals who provide medically necessary services under the supervision of physicians.**

All lymphedema patients – not just those receiving Medicare benefits and not just breast cancer survivors – will continue to be harmed if this Act is not passed. For patients, the inevitable result of the 2005 CMS rule will continue to be a significant reduction in the number of lymphedema therapists, and therefore longer waiting periods to see the therapists who work in the field. This means less time available for treatment and higher prices for all.

On behalf of Lymphedema People.com,
Pat O'Connor, president, founder and lymphedema patient
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