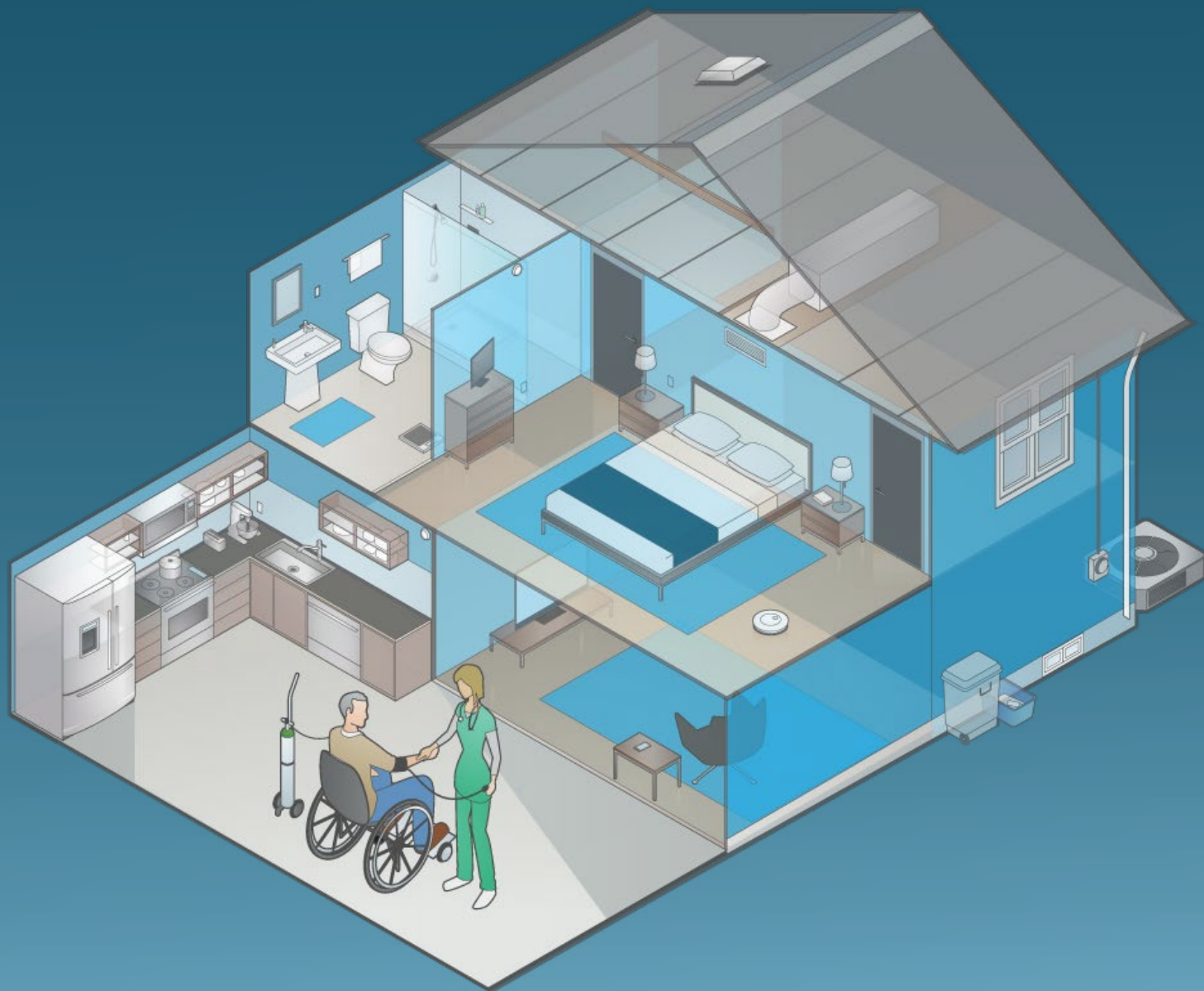


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HHCN+ Report: The Pros and Cons of Certificate of Need Regulations in Home Health Care

By Andrew Donlan | January 25, 2022



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Certificate of Need (CON) laws for home health agencies vary by state.

In some states, there are no restrictions. In others, there are strict
restrictions on how many home health and hospice providers are allowed
to operate. There are also ones with CON laws in hospice, and not in home
health – or vice versa.

The issue is divisive in health care, as it is specifically in home health.
Taking a step back, however, can allow one to see both the pros and cons to
each side of the argument.

Broadly, a CON program is a state regulatory tool that controls the number
of health care resources in a given area. The concept began with hospitals,
then was extended to other settings.

Certificate of Need State Laws



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

It requires providers looking to enter a CON state to prove there's an
overwhelming need for more, for instance, home health services. There
are 35 states that have some sort of CON. But, again, each state has
different regulations.

Either way, CON regulations have – and will continue to – shape the home
health sector for years to come. Home Health Care News explores the issue

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