



Preserve Access to Rehabilitation in Any Health Reform Bill

Any version of health reform that emerges from Congress must preserve and protect access to rehabilitation services so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions can regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function.

The Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) is comprised of forty-eight (48) national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that advocate for policies to ensure access to rehabilitation care for people with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, limb loss, neurological disorders, and numerous other disabling conditions. We believe that any health reform must maintain access to the full continuum of rehabilitation care.

Rehabilitation services are provided to help a person regain, maintain, or prevent deterioration of a skill, condition or function that has been acquired but then lost or impaired due to illness, injury, or disabling condition. These services are delivered in a variety of settings and include:

- Intensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary medical rehabilitation provided in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital
- Rehabilitation physician services, rehabilitation nursing services and other skilled therapies and services provided in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, including homecare.
- Outpatient physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech-language pathology (ST) services
- Other rehabilitation services such as psychiatric rehabilitation, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, recreational therapy, music therapy, behavioral and cognitive therapies, and psycho-social services.

These services should be provided based on the individual's needs, prescribed in consultation with a physician, and based on the assessment of an interdisciplinary team and resulting care plan. Rehabilitation services are essential to enable people with injuries, illnesses and disabilities to:

- Improving health status
- Improve, maintain, and/or prevent deterioration of functional abilities;
- Live as independently as possible
- Return to work, and to family and community activities;
- Avoid unnecessary and expensive re-hospitalization and nursing home placement, and
- Prevent secondary medical conditions.

Coverage of rehabilitation services is critical for individual and small group private health plans, Medicaid expansion programs, and all other payers of health care services.

For more information, contact CPR Coalition at peter.thomas@powerslaw.com or www.preserverehab.org.

Congressional Briefing Sponsoring and Endorsing Organizations

Sponsoring Organizations

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association on Health and Disability
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
American Music Therapy Association
Amputee Coalition
The Arc of the United States
ACCSES
Brain Injury Association of America
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
United Spinal Association

Endorsing Organizations

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Cochlear Implant Alliance
American Foundation for the Blind
American Heart Association / American Stroke Association
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American Spinal Injury Association
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Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
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