

A leading advocate on federal long term and post-acute care (LTPAC) issues, the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL) represents providers of medical services, including rehabilitative therapy, diagnostics & health information technology serving the LTPAC sector.

2021 Legislative Priorities

- Delay, stay, and/or mitigate significant cuts to rehabilitation therapy, portable-x ray and other clinical services for Medicare beneficiaries resulting from Evaluation and Management (E&M) changes made by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Delay, stay and/or mitigate the 15% reduction in payment for services furnished by rehabilitation therapy assistants, scheduled to be implemented January 1, 2022
- Make permanent the Public Health Emergency (PHE) telehealth flexibilities that allow rehabilitation therapists to furnish services via telehealth in all nursing facilities and other settings
- Allow Medicare beneficiaries to have hospital days spent under “observation” to count toward the 3-day qualifying hospital stay, on a permanent basis
- Streamline the payment model for clinical laboratory services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are homebound or in nursing homes
- Ensure ancillary service providers—including portable x-ray providers serving nursing facilities-- are able to receive Provider Relief Funds (PRFs) for mandated COVID testing and personal protective equipment (PPE)

About: NASL advocates in Congress and with regulatory agencies to support and advance policies that improve care quality for patients and residents of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), long term care hospitals (LTCHs), inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), home health, adult day care, hospice and assisted and independent living communities.

Formed in 1989, NASL member companies include rehabilitation therapy providers, including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language pathology services; providers of clinical laboratory and portable x-ray services; suppliers of medical equipment and supplies; and health information technology developers and vendors serving the LTPAC sector.

NASL partners with other LTPAC leaders on a variety of cross-cutting initiatives such as creating quality measures for therapy services as well as alternatives to the current payment system for these services. NASL and its members are involved in key national initiatives to advance interoperability and health information exchange and advocating for broader adoption and support for the use of electronic health records (EHRs) and other health IT by LTPAC providers.

By leveraging the operational, clinical and technical expertise of its members, NASL brings a unique practical approach to our advocacy driving improvements in national health policy that improve care quality for the patients we serve.

Contact: Cynthia Morton, cynthia@nasl.org Michael Barnett, michael@nasl.org Donna Doneski, donna@nasl.org