



NARA Legislative & Regulatory Priorities 2025-2026

The National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies (NARA) represents the interests of rehabilitation providers by promoting policy and regulatory initiatives designed to support the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care. Our 2025–2026 priorities focus on expanding access, modernizing payment, advancing digital care, and reducing administrative barriers.

1. Ensuring Patient Access to Rehabilitation Services

- Expand access to medically necessary therapy across all care settings by removing outdated restrictions, aligning Medicare Advantage with Traditional Medicare, and ensuring equitable reimbursement to address systemic disparities.
- Fully integrate physical, occupational, and speech therapy providers into all value-based care models, including ACOs, bundled payments, and population health initiatives.
- Permanently authorize telehealth for therapists with payment parity and no geographic restrictions, expand direct access by removing unnecessary referral requirements, and ensure inclusion of school-based and early intervention providers to support continuity of care.
- Promote interoperability by including therapy providers in health information exchanges to enhance care coordination, transitions, and outcome tracking.

2. Modernizing and Stabilizing Payment Systems

- Adjust reimbursement to reflect the true cost of delivering therapy, including inflation, workforce shortages, and administrative burdens, while strengthening rates for acute care and pediatric services.
- Enact structural reforms to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) to promote long-term stability and sustainability across care settings.
- Address Medicare Advantage payment shortfalls and ensure equitable reimbursement compared to Traditional Medicare.
- Sustain fee-for-service as a foundation while incentivizing value-based care models that prioritize quality, functional outcomes, and patient experience.

3. Expanding Access to Telehealth and Digital Health

- Secure long-term inclusion of PTs, OTs, and SLPs in Medicare's telehealth benefit with payment parity and without geographic or originating site restrictions.
- Support broader use of remote therapeutic monitoring and other digital innovations that enhance care delivery beyond the clinic.
- Ensure therapy providers are included in health information exchanges and eliminate barriers to real-time data sharing and technology-enabled care coordination.

4. Reduce Administrative Burden and Promote Transparency

- Simplify documentation requirements and reduce non-clinical mandates to allow providers to focus on patient care.
- Implement clear, consistent standards for prior authorization and audits across payers to prevent delays and ensure transparency.
- Harmonize Medicare Advantage and Traditional Medicare policies while advancing regulatory relief to reduce burnout and support workforce sustainability.