



April 16, 2024

The Honorable Julie Rogers, Chair
Michigan House Health Policy Committee
Room 519, House Office Building,
201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Submitted via email to Melissa Sweet- msweet@house.mi.gov

RE: Supporting Passage of Senate Bills 449 and 450

Dear Chairwoman Rogers,

We are writing to support the passage of Senate Bills SB 449 and 450, bills before the House Health Policy Committee for consideration of passage. These bills will provide safeguards and protection for Medicaid beneficiaries living with significant disabilities who require Complex Rehab Technology (CRT).

[The National Coalition for Assistive & Rehab Technology](#) (NCART) is a nonprofit national association advocating for individuals who rely on Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) by collaborating with suppliers, manufacturers, clinicians, consumers, legislators, and policymakers to establish appropriate coverage, funding, and standards.

The Durable Medical Equipment (DME) benefit was created decades ago to address the medical equipment needs of elderly individuals. Over the years, available technology has significantly advanced and now includes complex rehab power wheelchairs, highly configurable manual wheelchairs, adaptive seating and positioning systems, and other specialized equipment, such as standing frames and gait trainers. This technology – called Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) – requires clinical evaluation, configuration, fitting and adjustment, programming, and long-term maintenance and repair services.

CRT is prescribed by a physician and customized to meet the specific medical and functional needs of individuals with disabilities and medical conditions such as, but not limited to, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Spinal Cord Injury, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Spina Bifida. These individuals rely on CRT to maximize their ability to perform mobility-related activities of daily living, support their independence, remain active participants in their communities, and minimize secondary medical complications that may result in hospitalization and significant healthcare costs. Ensuring appropriate access to these products and services is of utmost importance.

NCART supports this legislation and believes SB 449 and SB 450 offer protections for Michigan Medicaid enrollees. The provisions in the bill do so by:

- Differentiating CRT from Standard Durable Medical Equipment (DMEPOS). Separate recognition and treatment would appropriately distinguish and address the unique needs of individuals with significant disabilities and medical conditions who require these CRT products and services.
- Assuring strong qualifications and operating standards for companies providing CRT in the state and supporting reliable access to care for enrollees.
- Requiring any CRT providers in the state to provide repair and adjustment services with a qualified, trained technician for the equipment they provide to enrollees.
- Ensuring policies secure appropriate access would reduce secondary medical complications that require clinical interventions, hospitalizations, institutionalizations, caregiver assistance, or additional in-home services, thereby controlling costs for the individual, the state, and Michigan taxpayers.

At the federal level, Congress has acknowledged that CRT products are unique and more specialized than standard DME. In 2008, Congress passed legislation exempting complex rehab power wheelchairs from inclusion in the Medicare DME competitive bidding program, recognizing that such inclusion would jeopardize access to this customized technology. That same distinct recognition is needed for CRT at the state level.

On behalf of NCART, our members, and the people with disabilities that we serve in Michigan, we ask that you please pass Senate Bills 449 and 450 to protect important access for Medicaid beneficiaries living with disabilities and mobility impairments who depend on Complex Rehab Technology.

Sincerely,



Wayne Grau
Executive Director | NCART
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