



September 17, 2024

Dear CRT Advocates and Friends,

NCART continues to work on the issues that matter most to our members. We are fast approaching NCART Washington DC Legislative Day. To understand what we plan to prioritize in 2025, we must first reflect on what we have accomplished together in 2024. This year:

- NCART and our members addressed multiple state legislative issues focused on reforming the restrictive repair and service processes within which our CRT community must operate.
- NCART contributed significantly to establishing Medicare coverage and coding for seat elevation systems. We continue to take needed action on improving reimbursement to ensure providers are supported in supplying these systems.
- NCART worked with multiple states on regulatory issues that included preventing potential cuts to fee schedules and ensuring coverage for products and codes
- NCART enlisted the expertise of a public relations team (Alday Communications) to help amplify the industry messaging about the value the CRT industry brings to consumers and educate the public about the health insurance process that critically impacts access to CRT equipment.
- NCART hired a professional marketing firm (Steelman Marketing) to focus our communications and messaging to our members, industry, and the public.

As we look forward, NCART will jointly host a Washington DC fly-in with US Rehab on September 24<sup>th</sup> to connect CRT industry advocates with key members of Congress. These Congressional meetings aim to build a foundation for federal legislation to be developed and introduced in 2025. We are raising three important issues:

- The economic and operational obstacles our members have in serving their customers
- Passage of HR 5371, The "Choices for Increased Mobility Act", restoring options to Medicare beneficiaries who would benefit from ultra-lightweight manual wheelchairs constructed from specialized materials like titanium and carbon fiber.
- Congressional support and messaging to CMS to open the National Coverage Determination (NCD) for power standing systems used with CRT power wheelchairs.

While federal legislation is a focus for 2025, we have much more to accomplish in 2025. These initiatives include:

- Advancing CRT Repair and Service Reform at the state level.
- Holding MCOs to the same standards that Medicare beneficiaries are offered with traditional Medicare.
- Continuing to protect and enhance state Medicaid policy and reimbursement for CRT
- Collecting and analyzing CRT industry data to support our advocacy work
- Testifying before CMS to address the proper pricing issue for seat elevation.
- Partnering with the ITEM Coalition and other CRT stakeholders to gain coverage, coding, and proper payment for power standing systems.

We value every member's input to ensure we remain focused on the issues that matter most. In October, NCART will be conducting a membership survey to gather your thoughts on the issues we

should prioritize in 2025. **Your feedback is crucial**—NCART is driven by your ideas, opinions, concerns, and opportunities.

YOU ARE NCART & NCART IS YOU. Please share your insights with us so we can build a better future for all our members and the community we serve.

Thank you for your continued dedication.

*Wayne Grau*

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