Federal Policy Priorities – 2021

1. Medicare Coverage of Seat Elevation and Standing Systems in Power Wheelchairs
   a. Continue Supporting National Coverage Determination Request for Reconsideration through CMS Review Process
   b. Engage with Congress as Necessary to Support Coverage of These Systems

2. Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT)
   a. Advocate for Legislation to Create a Separate CRT Benefit Category.
      i. Discuss Alternative Approach for Legislation
   b. Work with CMS to Permanently Exempt Manual CRT Wheelchair Accessories from Use of Competitive Bidding Rates

3. Competitive Bidding & DMEPOS
   a. Advocate to Prevent Further Expansion of Competitive Bidding to Ventilators and Orthoses other than Truly Off-the-Shelf (OTS) Orthoses
   b. Monitor Implementation of Blended Payment Rates to Protect Patient Access to DMEPOS in Rural and Non-Competitive Bidding Areas
   c. Monitor Patient Access to Oxygen Equipment

   a. Addressing Coding Problems and Seek to Preserve Access to Titanium, Bariatric, and Positional Tilt Wheelchairs

5. Medicare Coverage of Vision Benefits
   a. Continue with Initiative to Improve Vision Care in Medicare through Coverage of Low Vision Aids as DME
   b. Consider Advocacy for Broader Medicare Vision Benefit

6. Accessible Medical Equipment
   a. Expand Adoption of Standards for Accessible Medical Equipment, Especially Diagnostic Equipment
   b. Help Ensure Accessibility for All Populations

7. Affordable Care Act

8. Orthotics & Prosthetics (O&P) Issues
   a. Urge CMS to Re-Examine and Implement BIPA Section 427, including Exemptions for Certain Professionals Providing Custom O&P Care
   b. Support OTS Orthotics Legislation to Preserve Access to Clinical Orthotic Services (Medicare O&P Patient-Centered Care Act

9. Reform HCPCS Coding System
   a. Continue Working to Improve the Coding, Coverage, and Payment Process for DMEPOS
   b. Work to Ensure Benefit Category Determination Process is Fair and Accountable
10. Medicaid Coverage of Cochlear Implants (CI)  
   a. Advance Medicaid Coverage of Processors for Cochlear Implants as well as Coverage Policies that Advance Access to CI and Accessories/Supplies

11. Promote Consideration of Patient Experience and Functional Outcomes in CMS Coverage and Payment Determinations

Monitor & Support

1. Improve Access to Timely Repairs of DMEPOS

2. “Triple A” Study Act  
   a. Monitor Reintroduction of Access to Assistive Devices and Technology for Americans Study Act and Support Passage in 117th Congress

3. Competitive Bidding in Rural Areas  
   a. Monitor Implementation of 50/50 blended payment rates for competitively bid DMEPOS

4. Over-the-Counter Hearing Devices  
   a. Monitor Development of FDA Regulations Governing Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

5. MCIT Pathway  
   a. Monitor and Comment on Regulations Defining the Medicare Coverage of Innovative Technology (MCIT) Pathway for Medicare Coverage of FDA-Designated Breakthrough Technologies  
   b. Monitor and Comment on Regulations Implementing Definition of “Reasonable and Necessary” for Purposes of Medicare Coverage, Especially Consideration of Private Insurance Policies

6. Telehealth Expansion  
   a. Monitor Expansion of Telehealth by Federal Payers for Potential Patient Access Concerns