

National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) supports federal and state policy solutions and practices that make access to high quality health care equitable, affordable and understandable. Outlined below are our policy priorities that will help advance person-centered care.

EQUITABLE ACCESS

To provide all patients with equitable access to adequate coverage and quality person-centered care, NPAF will:

- Preserve coverage protections and essential health benefits among all health insurance plans.
- Support efforts to expand and sustain Medicaid, CHIP and other public safety net programs.
- Advocate for understandable and flexible insurance benefit designs, including step therapy protocols, prior authorization or provider networks, that support meaningful individual choice.

AFFORDABLE CARE

To protect patients and families from financial toxicity and to help them better afford quality health care, NPAF will:

- Support and raise awareness about the patients, families, and caregivers who need access to public and private safety net supports and services.
- Assist patients in learning about and meaningfully discussing their health care costs in ways that are transparent and culturally sensitive to patient and family needs and circumstances.
- Promote fairness in credit reporting practices to minimize the distressing harms related to medical debt.
- Ensure patients are not held financially responsible for balance billing due to unexpected out-of-network care.

QUALITY CARE

To improve the quality of life for patients and families coping with serious illness, NPAF will:

- Position patients, families, and caregivers as essential stakeholders in the development and evaluation of value-based quality care initiatives.
- Equip all stakeholders with resources and training to foster skilled communication and shared-decision making.
- Integrate palliative care in all care settings.