

2019 Policy Priorities

National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) represents the voices of patients and caregivers coping with serious and chronic illnesses. Together with our nationwide network of grassroots volunteers, we advocate at federal, state and local levels to put people at the heart of health care.

Our platform of person-centered policies prioritizes **equitable access to affordable, quality health care**. In 2019, NPAF will:

EQUITY

- Increase awareness about public and private safety net services and supports and the patients, families and caregivers who need them.
- Advocate for all patients and family caregivers to be routinely screened for financial and household material hardships and have reliable access to needed supports and services.
- Support efforts to expand and sustain Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other public safety net programs.

ACCESS

- Preserve coverage protections and essential health benefits among all health insurance plans.
- Advocate for understandable and flexible insurance benefit designs, including step therapy protocols, prior authorization or provider networks, that support meaningful individual choice.

AFFORDABILITY

- 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

- 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 services with treatment in all care settings to maximize quality of life for patients and families.

NPAF is the advocacy affiliate of [Patient Advocate Foundation](#) (PAF), which provides direct case management, financial support and educational services for primarily low-income patients and caregivers experiencing hardships because of their health conditions. Learn more about NPAF and its advocacy initiatives at npaf.org and follow us on Twitter [@npaf_tweets](#).