

2020 Policy Priorities

National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) amplifies the voices and values of millions of patients and caregivers nationwide. Together with our network of grassroots volunteers, NPAF advocates for policies and practices that put people at the heart of health care.

NPAF is the advocacy affiliate of Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), which assists patients and families coping with the challenges of complex and chronic diseases to help reduce financial toxicity and other burdens. Experiences reported from the thousands of primarily low-income individuals served annually through PAF and input from NPAF patient and caregiver advocates about what they need and value fuels our agenda. Our platform of person-centered care policies prioritizes **equitable access to affordable, quality health care**. In 2020, NPAF will work to:

EQUITY

- Advocate for all patients and caregivers to be routinely screened and referred to services that address their financial and social needs.
- Increase awareness about public and private safety net supports and services and their importance in helping meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Safeguard the federal poverty level threshold to preserve access to public and private safety net supports and services.

ACCESS

- Sustain coverage protections and essential health benefits in all health insurance plans.
- Promote understandable and flexible insurance coverage and utilization management practices that support meaningful shared decision-making.
- Preserve eligibility for equitable access to Medicaid and other public safety net programs.

AFFORDABILITY

- Hold patients harmless from surprise medical bills due to unexpected out-of-network care.
- Support transparent and culturally sensitive cost of care conversations personalized to patient and family needs and circumstances.
- Promote fairness in credit reporting practices to minimize the harms of medical debt.

QUALITY

- Involve patients and caregivers in the development and evaluation of value-based improvement initiatives.
- Equip patients, caregivers and professionals with resources and communication skills to foster shared decision-making.
- Integrate psychosocial, rehabilitation and palliative care supports and services in all care settings to maximize quality of life and functional well-being for patients and caregivers.