

The Hidden Half of Health Policy... Regulations and Why They Matter

THE PROCESS: How regulations are made

Congress passes the law. Federal agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), write the regulations that turn it into practice – shaping how we actually experience, get, and pay for healthcare.

Agencies write the rules

- 1 Federal agencies translate the law into specific, enforceable regulations.

A 60-day comment period

- 2 By law, every proposed regulation opens for 60 days of public comment.

Anyone can comment *YOUR STORIES MATTER HERE!*

- 3 Anyone at all – and NPAF does, on regulations that matters to patients.

Comments are synthesized

- 4 All comments are gathered, reviewed, and synthesized by the agency.

Some get named

- 5 Key comments are sometimes acknowledged directly in the final regulation.

Requests for Information

- 6 Agencies also issue RFIs to shape regulations that have not been drafted yet.

***NPAF grounds our public comments in patient stories – making sure proposed regulations stay connected to the people who will live with their consequences.**

WHAT WE DO: Regulatory Advocacy. Our approach includes...

Ongoing dialogue

With CMS and with Congress, year-round – not only when a rule drops.

Monitor and comment

On every regulation pertinent to patients and families.

Advocate for financial health

So that treatment does not come at the cost of everything else.

Recommend Needs Navigation*

In the models and measures CMS is building right now.

***Needs Navigation:** Provided hands-on by individuals skilled in communication and resource coordination, Needs Navigation helps secure access to safety net services and other responsive assistance personalized to preserve patient and family financial health.