



May 9, 2025

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D.
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21244

**RE: CPR Welcome Letter and Meeting Request to Discuss the Value of
Rehabilitation Therapy Services**

Dear Administrator Oz:

The undersigned members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (“CPR”) write to congratulate you on your appointment as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”). We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss how CMS and CPR can work together going forward to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries—particularly individuals with injuries, disabilities, and chronic conditions—have access to the high-quality, person-centered care they need to recover, rehabilitate, and remain as functional and independent as possible.

CPR is a coalition of nearly 60 national consumer, clinician, and membership organizations that work together to advocate for policies to ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions may regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function. CPR is comprised of organizations that represent patients—as well as the clinicians who serve them—who must navigate the complexities of the Medicare and Medicaid programs in order to receive quality health care in a variety of health care settings.

Medical rehabilitation—including rehabilitation physician services, rehabilitation therapies, and assistive devices and technologies—are a cornerstone of recovery for many patients. Whether delivered in inpatient rehabilitation facilities (“IRFs”), skilled nursing facilities (“SNFs”), home health, or outpatient clinics, rehabilitation therapy services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology are essential for helping individuals regain strength and mobility, relearn vital skills to be able to complete activities of daily living, and adapt to new challenges. The vital role that medical rehabilitation plays following a disabling illness or injury cannot be understated as these critical services not only improve function and quality of life, but also help prevent costly hospital readmissions and reduce long-term reliance on institutional care and support services.

As CMS continues to advance policies that promote evidence-based care and whole-person health, we believe rehabilitation services must remain a core component of the continuum of care. As such, we urge the agency and new administration to recognize the critical role that medical rehabilitation plays in improving outcomes and controlling costs. Rehabilitation therapies, in particular, are not only clinically effective—they are cost-effective as well. When patients receive the right intensity of therapy at the right time, they are more likely to return to their homes and communities, participate in work and family life, and avoid unnecessary long-term care placement.

We respectfully request a meeting with you and your team at your earliest convenience to discuss how CMS and CPR can work together to continue to ensure access to medical rehabilitation delivered in a variety of settings for the beneficiaries who need it most. Thank you again, and congratulations on your new role. We look forward to engaging with you on these important issues. Should you have any further questions, please contact Peter Thomas and Michael Barnett, coordinators for CPR, by e-mailing Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com and Michael.Barnett@PowersLaw.com or by calling 202-466-6550.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation

ACCSES

ADVION

ALS Association

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Association on Health and Disability

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Music Therapy Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Brain Injury Association of America*

Child Neurology Foundation

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation*

Falling Forward Foundation*

Lakeshore Foundation

National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics

National Association of Rehabilitation Providers and Agencies

National Multiple Sclerosis Society*

RESNA

Uniform Data Systems for Medical Rehabilitation (UDSMR/Netsmart)

United Cerebral Palsy

United Spinal Association*

****Member of the CPR Coalition Steering Committee***