



AUDIOLOGY PATIENTS WITH MEDICARE COVERAGE

ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT

Contact Your Congressional Representative and Urge Support for the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (H.R. 1587 / S.1731)

The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (H.R. 1587/S.1731) is bi-partisan, common-sense legislation that, if enacted, will allow audiology patients with Medicare coverage to have the same access to audiology care that most Americans and all of Congress already have through private insurers.

The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act will specifically:

Allow seniors with a suspected hearing or balance disorder to seek treatment directly from audiologists.

Allow Medicare to reimburse audiologists for all Medicare-covered services that they are licensed to provide.

Address the medical provider shortage confronting our country, through the inclusion of audiologists in the list of Medicare-recognized practitioners allowing audiologists the autonomy to make clinical recommendations and practice the full scope of audiology and vestibular care as allowed by their state license and as dictated by their educational requirements and competencies.

Visit the Audiology Patient Advocacy Action Center at chooseaudiology.org/patient-resource-center for more information about the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act and to access the *Congressional Connect* website tool to contact your legislator in just a few clicks of your mouse. The process takes less than five minutes and can make a lasting impact on improving access to audiology services for seniors. If you or someone that you love is a Medicare recipient with a suspected or confirmed hearing or balance disorder, please act today to encourage Congress to pass the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hearing loss is the third most common chronic disorder for Americans over 65, behind only arthritis and high blood pressure.
- Nearly half of Americans over age 75 suffer from hearing loss.
- Individuals with mild hearing loss are three times more likely to experience a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury and death for Americans over 65, as well as the most common cause of injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.
- Untreated hearing and balance problems contribute to and are highly correlated with depression and social isolation. Treatment reduces societal and financial costs.
- Seniors with hearing loss run a much higher risk of cognitive problems and experience cognitive decline up to 40% faster than those with normal hearing.
- The Association of American Medical Colleges projects there will be a shortage of 46,000 medical doctor specialists over the next decade.

For more information, contact the Academy of Doctors of Audiology by visiting audiologist.org or emailing us at info@audiologist.org