



## 2019 HME Policy Concerns

### Ensuring Access to Quality Complex Rehabilitation

#### Key DMEPOS/CRT Issues

The competitive bidding program has continued to push reimbursement rates to unsustainable levels, making it difficult for suppliers to provide quality care to their patients. This program has resulted in providers forced to maintain care levels with half of the resources. These cuts have made it especially difficult on rural providers and have threatened access to care for patients in rural America. VGM and the HME/CRT Industry is actively working with representatives of CMS and HHS to convey the urgency for reforms.

#### Legislative Initiatives for the Industry

Over the past few years, the grassroots coalition of providers and patients have made their voices heard on Capitol Hill. This has resulted in strong, bipartisan support from members of Congress across the country.

#### **H.R.2293 and S.1223 - Protecting Access to Wheelchairs Act**

Legislation has been introduced that will permanently exclude manual complex rehabilitative technology (CRT) wheelchairs from the Competitive Bidding Program and will stop Medicare from applying competitive bidding rates to manual CRT wheelchair accessories for 18 months, allowing time to develop permanent policy change. House bill H.R. 2293 by Reps. John Larson (D-Conn.) and Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) Senate bill S. 1223 by Sens. Bob Casey (D-Penn.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio).

This legislation would require CMS to use the same payment policies for accessories on manual chairs as it does for power chairs.

#### **H.R. 2408 - Ensuring Access to Quality Complex Rehabilitation**

This separate benefit legislation bill allows for needed improvements for complex rehab equipment and supplies in coverage policies, coding, and quality standards to better address the unique needs of people with significant disabilities and chronic medical conditions.