

## Government Affairs

# H.R 5371 - Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023

On December 15, 2016, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) released a policy that prohibited upgrades for titanium wheelchairs, which prohibits suppliers from billing for an upgrade to a wheelchair. As result, the only avenue for beneficiaries to obtain the titanium or carbon fiber wheelchairs is to pay for the entire wheelchair out of pocket and for the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier to file a non-assigned claim to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for partial reimbursement. This has detrimentally affected access for titanium and carbon fiber wheelchairs.

Individuals should have the ability to choose whether a titanium or carbon fiber wheelchair is right for them. The legislation to enable upgrades within a code removes the current obstacles in place.

We encourage you to contact your representatives in Congress asking them to support this legislation. Below is a sample script for an email or phone call to your representative:

“My name is (your name) and I’m from (your hometown). I am a (consumer of CRT, CRT provider, clinician who recommends CRT, etc.). I’m calling/writing Representative (name) to ask for (his/her) support of H.R. 5371 – Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023. Individuals should have the ability to choose whether a titanium or carbon fiber wheelchair is right for them. By enabling this choice, individuals can select products that are best suited for their medical, functional, and lifestyle needs and preferences. The legislation to enable upgrades within a code removes the current financial barriers that prevent some from being able to get a titanium or carbon fiber wheelchair, offering key benefits to consumers at no additional cost to CMS. I urge Representative (name) to cosponsor H.R. 5371 and urge House leadership to insure this bill is passed before the end of the year. Thank you.”