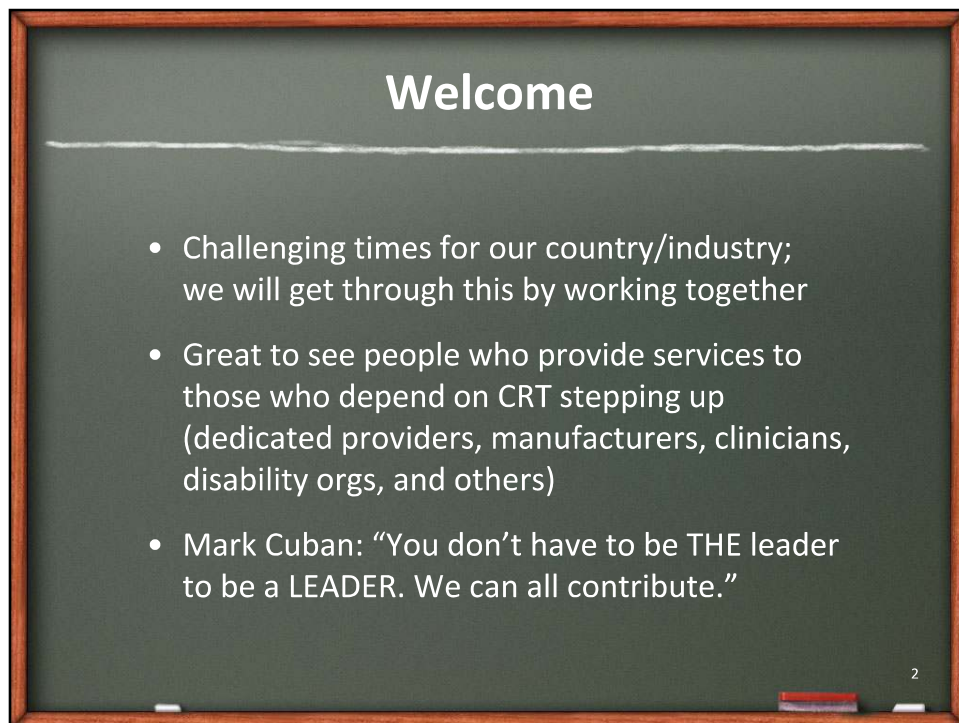




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Call Objectives

1. Bring together those providing CRT for information sharing and discussion
2. Review work being done to secure policy changes AND what we know at present
3. Identify outstanding questions/issues being pursued for answers and guidance
4. Create continuing forum for sharing CRT solutions as we navigate through COVID-19

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Follow Up Contacts

Don Clayback, NCART, Executive Director
dclayback@ncart.us

Weesie Walker, NRRTS, Executive Director
wwalker@nrrts.org

Dan Fedor, U.S. Rehab, Director of Reimb. & Education
dan.fedor@vgm.com

Cathy Carver, Clinician Task Force, Executive Director
cathyhcarver@gmail.com

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CRT Actions To Date

- Formation of industry COVID-19 Workgroup
- Formal letter to CMS regarding needed changes
- In-person calls with CMS teams; ongoing email exchanges and discussions
- Letters to state Medicaid programs; follow up emails and calls
- Collaboration with advocacy partners: AA Homecare, VGM/US Rehab, State Associations
- Other targeted discussions, calls, and follow up

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Big Picture Trends

- Federal/state officials working hard to provide immediate guidance/relief to minimize barriers to care and reduce healthcare system workload
- Common themes: open new pathways for care; minimize/eliminate direct physical contact; reduce burden on healthcare professionals and facilities; relax documentation requirements
- Policy makers processing massive changes; issuing initial guidelines, but acknowledging more will be needed

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Impacted CRT Areas

- Wheelchair and seating evals (PT/OT, RTS ATP)
- Deliveries (fitting, adjustments, training)
- Repairs
- New items/Replacements
- Documentation
- Prior Authorizations
- Customer/employee safeguards

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Medicare Requests

- Waive face-to-face requirements
- Allow remote technology for clinician and RTS ATP involvement- specialty evaluation, ATP participation, home evaluation
- Allow PTs and OTs to bill under telehealth
- Develop relaxed provisions if urgent need for new/replacement equipment
- Allow repairs without confirmation of continued need by physician

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Medicaid/Commercial Requests

- Waive face-to-face requirements
- Allow remote technology for clinician and RTS ATP involvement and home evaluation
- Waive prior authorization for repairs
- For new/replacement CRT modify prior authorization requirement to over \$1,000
- Develop relaxed provisions if urgent need for new/replacement equipment

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The CARES Act

- Major legislation signed on March 27 providing national COVID-19 relief
- Authority to expand telehealth
- Business focused loans and relief
- Suspends current 2% Medicare sequester cut from 5/1 to 12/31
- Extends 50/50 blended Medicare rates for rural CB areas; establishes new 75/25 blended rates for all other non-CB areas; through COVID

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Interim Rule CMS-1744-IFC

- Emergency rule focused on COVID-19
- Expansion of telehealth “services”- PTs, OTs not in statute as “distant site practitioners”
- NCD/LCD requirements for in-person services do not apply during COVID-19
- PMD Face to Face telehealth restrictions lifted
- Pausing of DMEPOS prior authorization
- Waiver of signature on delivery requirement
- Accelerated/Advance payments
- Relaxing timelines associated with appeals

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Clinician Issues/Activities

Cathy Carver, PT, ATP/SMS
Executive Director, Clinician Task Force
Wheelchair and Seating Clinic
University of Alabama Hospital
cathyhcarver@gmail.com

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Employee/Customer Safeguards

- CDC guidance
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- OSHA guidance
 - <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

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Business Assistance

- SBA Guidance and Loans
 - <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>: Paycheck Protection Program-all/some of loan “forgiven” if you maintain workforce.
- Medicare Accelerated/Advanced Payments
 - <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

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Sign Up For Email Updates

- Visit www.access2crt.org – CRT focused website
- Sign up to receive timely CRT advocacy related updates, including COVID-19 information

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Other Helpful Websites

- <https://www.cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit>
- <https://www.coronavirus.gov>
- <https://www.aahomecare.org/covid-19-resources>
- <https://www.vgm.com/coronavirus/>
- www.hmenews.com/coronavirusoutbreak

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Next Steps and Open Discussion

- Next CRT COVID-19 call will be Thursday
April 9 at 4:00 PM ET
- Email state issues/updates to mlee@ncart.us
- Thanks for your commitment!
- Open Discussion.....

dclayback@ncart.us

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