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Publication of Evidence-Based Coverage of Standing Devices

East Amherst, New York- The National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology (NCART) and the Clinician Task Force (CTF) are proud to jointly publish “Evidence-Based Response to Insurance Denials of Standing Devices”. This document was developed to provide important and helpful guidance to policy makers and health care insurance plans regarding the proper coverage and funding of standing devices for children and adults with disabilities.

Standing devices are classified within the broad category of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and are included in a sub-category of products called Complex Rehab Technology (CRT). CRT products consist of specialized equipment that is individually configured to meet the medical and functional needs of people with disabilities. Adequate access to CRT plays a critical role in keeping health care costs down and increasing function and independence.

“Standing devices have a long history of prescription and use to provide important medical benefits and other positive outcomes.” said Don Clayback, Executive Director of NCART. He continued, “When properly prescribed and utilized, they play an important role in reducing medical complications, clinical interventions, and hospitalizations. A lack of timely access harms individuals who require these devices and results in increased health care complications and costs.”

Cara Masselink, PhD, OTRL, ATP, Executive Director of the Clinician Task Force said, “We see frequent inappropriate denials of funding for standing devices. These denials often times stem from a lack of awareness of the evidence of medical benefits and reduced interventions that come from proper prescription and utilization.” She continued “We are thankful to the team of experienced clinicians and others who worked to present the benefits, evidence, and coverage guidelines that policy makers will find useful in ensuring these devices are covered when appropriate.”

“Evidence-Based Response to Insurance Denials of Standing Devices” can be downloaded at www.ncart.us or www.cliniciantaskforce.us.

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The National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology (NCART) is a national non-profit organization of suppliers and manufacturers of Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) products used by individuals with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. NCART works to ensure these individuals have adequate

access to the specialized CRT products and related supporting services they depend on. In pursuit of that goal, NCART collaborates with consumers, clinicians, and physicians to establish and protect appropriate coverage, coding, funding, and supplier standards policies. For more information visit www.ncart.us.

The Clinician Task Force (CTF) is comprised of more than 80 physical and occupational therapists across the United States who are recognized as leaders in the field of Complex Rehab Technology (CRT). The organization advocates for best practice, evidence-based methods in the service delivery of wheelchairs, seating and accessories, and access to appropriate wheeled mobility and seating for non-ambulatory individuals to promote positive outcomes. The CTF informs and guides policy and education through research and expert clinical experience. For more information visit www.cliniciantaskforce.us.