

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Scope of Practice

It is reasonable for non-physician providers to seek updates to statutes and regulations relating to their defined scope of practice to reflect advances in education and training. However, the AAO-HNS strongly believes a physician-led hearing healthcare team, with coordination of services, is the best approach for providing the highest quality care to patients. AAO-HNS strongly opposes legislation that would inappropriately expand the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training, particularly proposals that threaten patient safety by enabling providers to independently diagnose, treat, or manage medical disorders.

Hearing Aid Services

The coverage of, sale, and dispensing of hearing aids is an issue considered by several states in various forms each legislative year. The AAO-HNS tracks and advocates bills that address the scope of practice of dispensing hearing aids, state insurance mandates for hearing aids, and tax credits and/or exemptions for hearing aids. The merits and potential concerns with these varying proposals are typically evaluated on an individual basis.