



**SPINA BIFIDA  
ASSOCIATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CMS announces designation of transanal irrigation (TAI) devices as “prosthetic devices” under the Medicare program**

The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) is excited to share that CMS has designated transanal irrigation (TAI) devices with rectal catheters that have a sealing function (e.g., balloon or cone-based catheters) as “prosthetic devices” under the Medicare program.

“CMS's decision to classify trans-anal irrigation as a prosthetic device marks a pivotal step toward improving dignity, independence, and health for individuals with neurogenic bowel dysfunction. A brighter, more inclusive future starts with this decision,” said SBA CEO, Sara Struwe.

SBA greatly appreciates the outreach efforts from Congressmen Kevin Hern (OK-1) and Gus Bilirakis (FL-12). Both members have demonstrated steadfast support and a strong commitment to the rare disease community.

"Spina Bifida isn't just a condition; it's a challenge that impacts families, including my own," said Congressman Kevin Hern. "Access to life-changing treatments is essential for improving quality of life. These tools provide independence and dignity, and I'll keep fighting for the Spina Bifida community and others until they get the support they deserve."

While there is still much work to be done, we are thrilled to celebrate this monumental step forward. This achievement marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to drive progress and create lasting change for all those impacted by Spina Bifida and the entire rare disease community. We remain committed to building on this momentum as we move forward.

SBA, established in 1973, is the nation's only voluntary health organization dedicated to improving healthcare outcomes for the over 166,000 Americans living with Spina Bifida—one of the most common, permanently disabling birth defects compatible with life. SBA and its network of local chapters support the Spina Bifida community through research, advocacy, educational programming, and direct information and referral support.

For more information on SBA, call (800) 621-3141 or visit [www.spinabifidaassociation.org](http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org).

