

September 2, 2020

Senators:

On behalf of the patients the Chronic Care Policy Alliance represents, we reach out to you again to urge you to protect patient access to cost-sharing assistance.

CCPA is a network of state and regional advocacy organizations advancing public policy that improves the lives of those living with chronic conditions and diseases. Dedicated to achieving better access to quality, affordable health care, CCPA brings together advocates who share common goals and lends its experience in legislative action and public policy creation to support statewide and regional networking development.

Millions of patients across the country rely on manufacturer assistance to access the medications they need to treat their acute and chronic conditions. Regrettably, policy changes included in the 2021 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters would jeopardize these payments from counting towards patients' out-of-pocket maximums and endanger their access to required medications. That's why we, along with over 100 national and state patient advocacy organizations, reached out in July through the attached letter, strongly opposing these changes and urging Congress to pass legislation to delay the implementation of this rule.

Today, we reiterate that ask and urge you to introduce partner legislation to H.R. 7647, **to delay the implementation of this policy change for one year and reinstate limitations on copay accumulators included in the 2020 NBPP, ensuring co-pay assistance counts for brand name drugs that do not have a generic alternative.**

Ultimately, this bill, which is already gaining bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, will protect patients from facing new and unnecessary barriers to care during the ongoing public health emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **We ask that you safeguard patient care and take steps to mitigate undue harm during this critical time by introducing similar legislation in the Senate.**

Please reach out with any questions or comments to Liz Helms, Director, CCPA, lizh@chroniccarealliance.org. Thank you very much for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Liz Helms, Founding Director
Chronic Care Policy Alliance