Out-of-Pocket (OOP) Rx Costs Are Enormous

Many Medicare patients are forced to pay upwards of $10,000 every year for their cancer drugs.

In 2019, a Medicare Part D beneficiary could expect to pay these OOP costs for blood cancer drugs.

- $16,551: enasidenib
- $14,461: lenalidomide
- $11,830: midostaurin
- $10,175: acalabrutinib
- $8,983: imatinib

Sticker Shock

Patients filling their first prescription face burdensome costs at the pharmacy counter.

The cost of filling the first monthly prescription of the year can be $1,000 more than the average January Social Security check.

Cost Puts Cancer Treatments Out of Reach

Too many Medicare enrollees cannot afford their treatment.

Patients paying more than $2,000 out-of-pocket are more likely to abandon cancer therapy.

45% of patients with costs over $2,000 abandon their RX treatment.

source: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019

source: SSA, 2019, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2017; Doshi AJMC, 2017

source: Doshi, JCO, 2018
High Costs Affect More People Every Year

Each year, more Part D beneficiaries enter the "catastrophic phase" which provides little relief from high costs and significantly increases taxpayer spending.

10X AS MANY ENROLLEES ENTER THE CATASTROPHIC PHASE WITH A SINGLE COSTLY PRESCRIPTION IN 2016 (360,000) AS DID IN 2010 (33,000)

$37.4 billion TAXPAYER DOLLARS SPENT ON DRUGS IN THE CATASTROPHIC PHASE

Government spending in this phase is growing faster than spending for Part D overall.

$8 billion

TAXPAYER DOLLARS SPENT ON DRUGS IN THE CATASTROPHIC PHASE

NUMBER OF PART D ENROLLEES WITH HIGH COST-SHARING

2010 380,000
2013 682,000
2016 1,044,000

Each  represents 10,000 individuals

source: MedPAC, 2019; Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017

A Simple, Popular Solution

A monthly out-of-pocket (OOP) cap is feasible, relatively inexpensive to implement, and would solve this problem for many in Part D.

40¢ PER MONTH FROM EACH PART D ENROLLEE COULD FINANCE THE FULL COST OF AN ANNUAL OUT-OF-POCKET CAP

76% OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FAVOR AN ANNUAL LIMIT ON OOP DRUG COSTS FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

source: Trish, Health Affairs, 2018; Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019

The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Find out more at www.lls.org