

Protecting Patients' Access to Health Care

As various health care reforms and plans are discussed in Congress and as part of the upcoming elections, focus should center around protecting cancer patient access to affordable health care.



Access

- Maintain bans on pre-existing condition exclusions and annual and lifetime limit caps.
- Preserve guaranteed issue and guaranteed renewability.
- Ensure patient access to affordable and adequate health insurance coverage regardless of health status, income or age.
- Safeguard access to cancer screening and prevention programs.
- Ensure timely access to evidence-based care.



Affordability

- Prohibit cost-shifting to cancer patients and providers to cover uncompensated or underfunded care.
- Provide sufficient funds for public health, preventive services and patient navigator services for cancer patients.
- Protect cancer patients from high out-of-pocket costs for treatment.



Quality and Efficiency

- Reduce overutilization of prior authorization requests that increasingly restrict physicians from exercising their clinical judgment in determining what is in the best interest of their patients.
- Simplify burdensome reporting systems to reduce costs and create a more efficient system.
- Harmonize reporting requirements across federally funded programs.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates and requirements that undercut the potential benefits of health information technology.



Research

- Protect stable increases in funding for research and innovation.
- Improve access to clinical trials by ensuring coverage of routine care costs of participation in an approved clinical trial.
- Promote research on the benefits of radiation therapy and its combinations with other therapies.