

# Help Iowa Patients

1

## What is prescription financial assistance?

Financial assistance options by drug makers allow these patients to pay less for their medications. Drug makers provide patients with financial assistance for expensive medications to make them more affordable, as if your friend gave you \$20 to help pay a bill.



2

## Why is prescription financial assistance being used in Iowa?

People with chronic illnesses, such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, diabetes, HIV, and hemophilia, have high medical expenses. Many patients rely on this kind of financial assistance to access their medicines.



3

## What is the impact of prescription financial assistance?

Two patients with the same disease and prescription can pay totally different prices if they have different insurance. The amount a patient pays for their medicine is determined by their health insurance company and its pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), who negotiate and set the prices.



4

## Why is prescription financial assistance in jeopardy?

Some insurance companies are changing their policies to no longer allow this kind of financial assistance to count toward a patient's out-of-pocket costs. This means patients could pay thousands of dollars more at the pharmacy or risk going without life-saving medicine because they can no longer afford it. Our healthcare system has many flaws that need to be fixed, but the reality is insurance companies are taking away a cost-sharing tool patients have come to rely on.



5

## What will happen to patients if prescription financial assistance is no longer available?

Patients risk their health and treatment outcomes when they are no longer able to afford medications or begin to ration their prescriptions to stretch dollars. Especially when a patient is not initially aware financial assistance options are no longer accepted by their insurer or counted toward their deductible, it can cause a major disruption to a person's livelihood mid-year.

6

## How can you help protect prescription financial assistance?

Tell Iowa lawmakers to pass Bills to protect patients by prohibiting insurance companies from withholding financial assistance that allows patients to pay less for their medications.



# Facts

1

Hemophilia & Von Willebrand Disease (VWD) are bleeding disorders caused by specific protein deficiencies required for blood to clot properly. Individuals affected by these disorders can bleed significantly longer than those without. This can lead to an array of issues including long term joint damage, chronic pain and higher risks of internal bleeding.



2

Patients use products made from either human plasma or animal cells that replace those proteins and control clotting.

3

It is estimated that 70% of all individuals with bleeding disorders who used factor products before 1987 may have been exposed to HIV. And as many as 90% were exposed to Hepatitis C before 1992. This was prior to all blood products being screened for these diseases.



4

About 20,000 people are affected by hemophilia in the U.S. Approximately 1% of the population is affected by VWD.

# Challenges

1

Access to insurance, discrimination issues, access to medications, co-infections.

2

High annual medication cost, many with costs that exceed \$500,000.



3

Patients live with multiple chronic conditions and have unique care issues.

