

LOWERING OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR WISCONSIN PATIENTS

What You Need to Know About How Patients Access Their Prescriptions

WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS MUST ACT TO PROTECT THE VALUE OF COPAY ASSISTANCE.

WHAT IS A COPAY?



A copay or copayment is a set or fixed dollar amount a patient must pay for a medical service, such as a doctor's visit or a prescription medication. The payment typically counts towards a patient's annual deductible and cost-sharing requirements.

WHAT IS COPAY ASSISTANCE?



Copay assistance is provided by manufacturers and nonprofits to help patients afford and adhere to medically-necessary medications. Copay assistance is not the same as a pharmacy discount card, which fundamentally changes the amount a patient owes. Copay assistance only changes the way the patient pays, not what amount they pay.

WHEN DO PATIENTS ACCESS COPAY ASSISTANCE?



Copay assistance is only available to insured patients AFTER a patient and their physician have determined the right therapy AND the patient has completed utilization management protocols required by their plan. Patients must apply and be approved for copay assistance with a manufacturer or nonprofit before they can access it.

HOW DO COPAY ACCUMULATORS IMPACT PATIENTS?



Copay accumulator adjustment programs implemented by health plans block copay assistance from counting towards a patient's deductible and cost-sharing requirements, threatening treatment access and adherence.

WHAT ARE STATES DOING TO PROTECT PATIENTS?



12 states and Puerto Rico have already taken action to ensure health plans count the value of copay assistance towards patient out-of-pocket costs – and Wisconsin should be next.

SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 184 & SENATE BILL 215 TO ENSURE WISCONSIN PATIENTS CAN ACCESS THEIR MEDICATIONS.

More than 35 national and Wisconsin-based advocacy organizations that make up the *WI All Copays Count Coalition* support legislative efforts to ensure the copay assistance programs patients use **COUNT** toward their cost-sharing requirements.

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