

For Immediate Release
December 1, 2023

In case you missed it!
**Lowering Costs for Cancer Patients:
The Benefits of Site-Neutral Payment Reform!**

On November 8, the **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** hosted a briefing, *Lowering Costs for Cancer Patients: The Benefits of Site-Neutral Payment Reform*, featuring special guest **Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers** (R-WA), chair of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, with introductions by **Jessica Brooks-Woods**, CEO of **NABIP**, and a panel of health care experts:

- **Brian Connell**, vice president, Federal Affairs, **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**
- **Paul Fronstin, Ph.D.**, director, Health Benefits Research, **Employee Benefit Research Institute**
- **Sophia Tripoli**, senior director of Health Policy, and director, Center for Affordable Whole Person Care, **Families USA** (moderator)

Watch the briefing [here](#) and read on for highlights from the event.

Across the country, patients' health care costs are rising – and hospital prices are a driving factor. Our esteemed panelists discussed the advantages of site-neutral payment reform, as well as the results of two new studies:

- An American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network [study](#) that examines how expanding site-neutral payment policies would reduce out-of-pocket costs for breast cancer patients enrolled in Medicare.
- A [white paper](#) from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society that examines how expanding site-neutral payment policies would reduce out-of-pocket costs for Medicare and commercial plan enrollees' battling breast cancer, colitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Crohn's disease, multiple myeloma, multiple sclerosis, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, or rheumatoid arthritis.

During the briefing, McMorris Rodgers said she is working with the new House leadership team to schedule a vote for the bipartisan Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 5378), which aligns Medicare payments for physician-administered drugs in off-campus hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) and freestanding physician offices. She shared the story of a senior citizen in Ohio whose out-of-pocket costs for a routine injection increased from \$30 to \$350 after their doctor's office was purchased by a larger hospital system.

"The system costs both seniors and the Medicare program more," McMorris Rodgers said, adding that her bipartisan bill "is an **important step towards a more rational, affordable health care system.**"

The Alliance supports site-neutral payment reforms and transparency policies that aim to eliminate unjustified payment discrepancies based on the site of care. We will continue to work with Congress to expand site-neutral payments in Medicare and encourage adoption in commercial settings, which could result in nearly \$60 billion in savings annually in the commercial market according to new research by University of Minnesota economist Steve Parente conducted on behalf of the Alliance. As polling conducted

by the Alliance has shown, 72% of insured Americans believe the **price of health care services should be the same no matter where that service is received.**

Documents & Materials

- [Alliance to Fight for Health Care: Lowering Costs for Cancer Patients: The Benefits of Site-Neutral Payment Reform](#)
- [Leukemia & Lymphoma Society: What Would Site-Neutral Reform Mean for Cancer Patients?](#)
- [Employee Benefit Research Institute: Location, Location, Location: The Impact of Site of Treatment on Health Care Costs](#)
- [Wakely | Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Study: Site-Neutral Payment Reform has the Potential to Significantly Reduce Out-of-Pocket Patient Spend](#)
- [Wakely | Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Infographic: How Medicare Site-Neutral Payment Reforms Save Patients Money](#)
- [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Issue Brief: Examining the Impact of Site Neutral Payment on Costs for Cancer Care](#)

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage. Together, we are working to ensure that employer-provided coverage remains an available and affordable option for working Americans and their families.



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