



The US Oncology Network

Coverage Parity for Oral Chemotherapy

Oral chemotherapy medications represent the future of chemotherapy, providing exceptionally more convenient and comfortable treatments for patients in the comfort of their home. An estimated 25% of the 400 oncology agents in the drug development pipeline are being developed in oral form, demanding that health care coverage policies keep pace with promising advances in cancer treatment.

Some health insurance plans cover oral chemotherapy drugs under a patient's prescription drug plan, but this coverage is generally not as comprehensive as the coverage for intravenous (I.V.) administered chemotherapy drugs. Due to this disparity in coverage, cancer patients often do not have the option of receiving administered oral chemotherapy medications, and must instead regularly visit an oncology center (sometimes for up to 8 hours a day) while they undergo physically difficult I.V. chemotherapy treatments that offer no clinical advantage over oral chemotherapy drugs.

The US Oncology Network supports passage of the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act (HR 2746), which would require group and individual health insurance plan coverage of oral cancer medications on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for I.V. administered cancer treatment.

Our nation's health insurance plans need to innovate along with the science of cancer care, and allow cancer patients, regardless of their health insurance plan, to access the physician prescribed treatments they prefer and deserve.