

HIV + HEP
POLICY INSTITUTE

PRESS RELEASE

March 4, 2020

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**HIV + Hep Comments on Trump Proposal
to Increase Drug Costs for Patients**

Washington DC... Earlier this week the **HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute** submitted [comments](#) to the HHS in strong opposition to a proposal that would dramatically increase the cost of prescription drugs for patients. In the [2021 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters](#) rule, HHS proposed to allow insurers to not count drug manufacturer coupons to count toward patient out-of-pocket cost sharing.

In the comments, Carl Schmid, Executive Director of **HIV + Hep**, wrote:

“At a time when the American people are rightfully complaining about how much they pay for prescription drugs, **HIV + Hep** cannot understand why the administration is proposing to allow insurance plans to not count copay assistance towards beneficiaries’ out-of-pocket costs and deductibles. This proposal, if finalized, would be a major setback for patients as they seek to access prescription drugs and goes against President Trump’s promise to make prescription drugs more affordable. **We urge you not to finalize such an anti-patient proposal.**”

The proposal is a complete reversal of the administration’s policy included in the rule for 2020 plans that required copay assistance to count for brand name drugs that do not have a generic.

Schmid added, “We do not know exactly what transpired between now and then, but we do know that some large employers and insurers voiced strong disapproval of the policy decision. **HIV + Hep** trusts that for the benefit of patients who rely on costly prescription drugs, the administration will, at a minimum, revert to the 2020 policy. Ideally, we believe that copay assistance should count in all instances.”

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The **HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote quality and affordable healthcare for people living with or at risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other serious and chronic health conditions.