



2023 ADVOCACY ISSUES TALKING POINTS

ISSUE #1: PROTECTING COPAY ASSISTANCE (AB 874)

- Copay assistance is provided by drug manufacturers, charitable foundations and other third parties to help patients pay for their prescriptions, enabling them to afford medications that they otherwise wouldn't have access to.
- Copay accumulators are programs through which health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) prevent copay assistance given to patients from counting towards their deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.
- Many bleeding disorder patients rely on copay assistance to afford their medication but may find that their costs are suddenly much higher than expected, leaving them unable to afford their treatment.
- Copay accumulators have a negative impact on patient adherence and health outcomes, leading patients to skip or ration their medication.
- Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D. has been a vocal advocate for patients who are impacted by copay accumulators. This year, she introduced **AB 874** which will require health plans to count the value of copay assistance toward a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

ISSUE #2: MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS FOR MEDI-CAL, CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS) AND THE GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM (GHPP)

- These programs provide health care coverage to people with hemophilia and other rare bleeding disorders in CA. This coverage includes blood factor replacement medication, ancillary medical supplies, physical therapy, and medical procedures.