

How **Alternative Funding Programs** Harm Cancer Patients

Patients with cancer deserve swift care that fully meets their needs. But increasingly, alternative funding programs threaten access to cancer treatments.



Alternative Funding Programs

Alternative funding programs can undermine cancer treatment. Third-party vendors persuade employers to remove specific specialty medications from a formulary and classify them as “non-essential” benefits. Despite having insurance coverage, impacted patients are effectively uninsured for the medication they need.

Instead, they are directed to patient assistance programs, which are intended to help disadvantaged, underinsured or uninsured patients. These funds often have limited assistance to offer, pitting insured patients against truly needy patients. The programs may also carry income restrictions, which make it difficult for some insured cancer patients to access their treatment. If a patient’s income is too high to qualify for assistance, they may be left without coverage as their disease progresses.

The Impact for Cancer Patients

Alternative funding programs target specialty medications that may be an integral part of a patient’s cancer treatment. This can lead to treatment delays as cancer patients navigate the complexities of alternative funding programs while also trying to monitor and treat their disease.

Cancer patients are trapped, forced to navigate a complex paperwork game while their disease progresses.

Ensuring Patient Access

Delays in cancer care can be deadly. Policymakers must restrict alternative funding programs to protect all cancer patients and ensure they can access treatment in a timely manner. **Cancer patients deserve comprehensive coverage & timely access from their health plan.**



Alliance for Patient Access