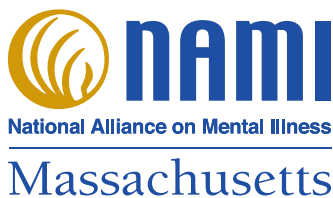
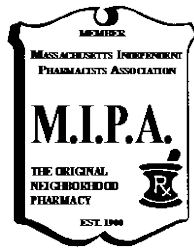


Collectively, we support the use of discounts, rebates, and product vouchers for prescription drugs and biological products in Massachusetts.



May 21, 2019

Mr. David Seltz, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Health Policy Commission  
50 Milk Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02143

Dear Mr. Seltz,

We are writing, collectively, to express our support for the use of discount vouchers for prescription drugs in the Commonwealth. These vital programs allow thousands of Massachusetts patients to access the medications and treatments they need while helping with out-of-pocket costs.

In 2012, Massachusetts became the final state in the nation to enact legislation allowing patients to redeem prescription drug discount coupons at pharmacies to reduce co-pay costs. Before this legislation, these coupons were prohibited in the Commonwealth because of an outdated 1988 state law banning any rebate for health-care purchases. Unfortunately, patients are facing uncertainty surrounding this law, as it is scheduled to sunset in 2020 without legislative action.

Patients with chronic illnesses often face incredibly challenging financial decisions. Many must regularly choose between basic life necessities and the significantly high copays for the medications and treatments that allow them to manage their disease. Studies show that when patients' out-of-pocket costs rise, many skip doses or stop taking medications altogether. This lack of adherence results in higher costs related to hospitalizations, ER visits, and long-term health issues.

Thousands of patients in Massachusetts have benefitted from money-saving co-pay assistance over the past seven years. These programs provide significant relief to patients facing increased out-of-pocket costs for their medications due to higher co-pays from coverage changes like high deductible health care plans. Discounts and coupons reduce their out-of-pocket burden, improve access to prescription medicines and innovative therapies, and help patients to stay on the medications they need.

As you evaluate the effects of discounts, rebates, and product vouchers for prescription drugs and biological products on health care costs in the Commonwealth, we implore you to keep the needs of our patients in mind. These programs help thousands of patients avoid making their medical decisions based primarily on financial concerns, rather than their well-being and physicians' recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AdMeTech  
Arthritis Foundation

Carla Tardif, Chief Executive Officer of Family Reach  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Easter Seals Massachusetts  
EndHepCMA Coalition  
Epilepsy Foundation New England  
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
Fenway Health  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
The Heart Brothers Foundation  
Home Care Aide Council  
IMPACT Melanoma  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association  
Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire Rheumatology Association (MMNRA)  
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts (NAMI MASS)  
National Infusion Centers Association (NICA)  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
New England Hemophilia Association  
Patients Rising Now  
Rare New England  
US Pain Foundation