



Wyoming's Oral Anticancer Treatment Access Law: What Clinicians Need to Know



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ACCESS COALITION

Outdated coverage policies in Wyoming *USED TO* limit cancer patients' access to life-saving drugs!

Traditionally, IV chemotherapy treatments are covered under a health plan's medical benefit where the patient is required to pay an office visit copay, usually between \$20 and \$30. Conversely, oral anticancer medications are covered under a health plan's prescription benefit and, many times, patients are responsible for extremely high and unmanageable copays, creating an enormous barrier for patients to access orally administered drugs. According to a recent study published in the *Journal of Oncology Practice* and *American Journal of Managed Care*, 10% of cancer patients failed to fill their initial prescriptions for oral anticancer medications due to high out-of-pocket costs.

Legislative Solution

In an effort to remove barriers to accessing life-saving treatments for cancer patients, Wyoming passed legislation for health policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2015. This legislation requires that health insurance plans in Wyoming that cover cancer chemotherapy treatments cannot require higher cost-sharing for their coverage for oral chemotherapy than they do for intravenous or injected chemotherapy. Additionally plans cannot reclassify benefits or increase their cost-sharing for intravenous drugs in order to comply. **To view Wyoming's oral parity law, please see next page.**

What Does This Mean for Patients?

If a patient is *privately insured (the law does not apply to Medicare or Medicare supplemental plans)*, and their plan covers chemotherapy, an FDA-approved, orally administered drug should be covered on a no less favorable basis than coverage for traditional IV (intravenous) chemotherapy.

What to do if an insurance plan does not comply & to find out if the law applies to your health plan:

You can file a complaint with the Wyoming Department of Insurance at <http://doi.wyo.gov> or call at (800) 438-5768. For information about our oral parity work in Washington, DC, please go to: peac.myeloma.org.



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ORIGINAL SENATE FILE NO. SF0062 ENROLLED ACT NO. 25, SENATE SIXTY-THIRD
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING 2015 GENERAL SESSION 1

AN ACT relating to health insurance; **requiring** that insurers provide coverage for oral chemotherapy in the same manner as injectable and intravenous chemotherapy; providing applicability; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 26-20-501 is created to read:

ARTICLE 5
ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY PARITY

26-20-501. Oral chemotherapy parity with injectable and intravenous.

(a) No individual or group health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense incurred basis, individual and group service or indemnity type contract issued by any insurer including any nonprofit corporation and individual and no group service contract issued by a health maintenance organization, shall require a higher copayment, deductible or coinsurance amount for oral chemotherapy than required for injected or intravenous chemotherapy, regardless of the formulation or benefit category determination by the policy or contract issuer.

(b) No issuer of a health insurance policy or contract shall comply with subsection (a) of this section by increasing the copayment, deductible or coinsurance amount required for covered injected or intravenous chemotherapy or by reclassifying benefits with respect to cancer treatment medications.

ORIGINAL SENATE FILE NO. SF0062 ENROLLED ACT NO. 25, SENATE SIXTY-THIRD
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING 2015 GENERAL SESSION 2

(c) This section shall apply to all policies and contracts, as described in subsection (a) of this section, issued or renewed after July 1, 2015.

(d) For purposes of this section, "chemotherapy" means administration of drugs and biologics to kill, slow or prevent the growth of cancerous cells.

Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2015.