

# PATIENTS & FAMILY CAREGIVERS: PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19

## KEY FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY OF PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS



### A MAJORITY OF PATIENTS RELY ON COPAY ASSISTANCE TO AFFORD THEIR MEDICATIONS

**65%** of respondents either currently use or have used copay assistance programs to afford their medications.

**60%** of respondents said they would have extreme difficulty affording their medications without copay assistance being applied to their out-of-pocket costs.



### PATIENTS HAVE FACED INCREASED AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19

**46%** of respondents said they or someone in their immediate household has not been able to afford their out-of-pocket costs in the past year.

**44%** of respondents reported having negatively been impacted by COVID-19, including health care affordability challenges.



### PEOPLE OF COLOR DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPERIENCE AFFORDABILITY ISSUES

**33%** of respondents who were unable to afford their medications or treatments because assistance ran out were persons of color.

**38%** of respondents with a bleeding disorder who were unable to afford their medications or treatments because assistance ran out were persons of color.



### BROAD SUPPORT EXISTS TO COUNT THE VALUE OF COPAY ASSISTANCE TOWARD PATIENT COSTS

**93%** of respondents said the federal government should require health insurers and pharmacies to count the value of copay assistance toward patient out-of-pocket cost responsibilities.

**83%** of respondents reported out-of-pocket costs as being their most important health care problem.

## WHAT PATIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT COPAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

"Copay assistance programs are the only reason I was able to afford medications before my current job, salary increase. A couple years ago, I was making around fifty thousand dollars a year and had student loans totaling twenty thousand dollars. Between my insurance copay and my student loan debt repayments, I was hardly able to stay above water. Copay assistance programs saved me from taking out even more debt to pay for my life saving medications."

*Kidney Patient, WI*

"My deductible at work is \$1,200 a month and my family deductible is \$12,000. I make \$14.75 an hour. It's impossible to live on being a single parent of three."

*Hemophilia &  
Autoimmune/Arthritis Patient, CT*

"Discount cards and copay assistance are lifesavers. I would not be able to be a teacher without them because I cannot live without my chronic medications."

*Autoimmune/Arthritis Patient, TX*

"In a year when our family income dramatically reduced and costs increased, not having the copay assistance for the prescription medications is more devastating than can be put into words. Having to choose between family housing and food or vital medication is absolutely heartbreaking."

*Hemophilia & Cancer Patient, TX*

## SUPPORT FEDERAL ACTION TO COUNT THE VALUE OF COPAY ASSISTANCE