



[Patient Voice - October 2022 Issue](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



In this Issue

- ▶ [New Patient Protections Become Law in California](#)
- ▶ [Financial Assistance Programs for IVIG and Other Medications](#)
- ▶ [NAF Joins The Future of Pharmacy Care Coalition and Signs Group Letter](#)
- ▶ [How Caregivers Can Avoid Burnout](#)
- ▶ [The Most Ignored Side Effect of Chronic Illness](#)

New Patient Protections Become Law in California

Dear Newsletter Recipient,

The NAF is proud to have supported the California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC) who sponsored AB 2352 – The Patient Rx Information And Choice Expansion Act (PRICE Act). The bill was recently signed into law by Governor Newsome which was authored by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

AB 2352 makes prescription medication cost information available at the point-of-care, preventing delays in care, medication non-adherence, and reducing administrative burdens on providers and the overall cost of healthcare. Patients make decisions about their healthcare based on what they can afford. This critical cost and coverage information is not available until after they reach the pharmacy counter, where they may realize a treatment is unaffordable and abandon the needed medication. Information blocking by insurers and PBMs not only aggravates patients' state of health, but also leads to increased use of more costly healthcare services such as hospitalizations. This system does not work for patients or our healthcare providers, who are burdened with added administrative responsibilities. AB 2352 moves prescription drug cost and coverage information into the doctors' offices at the time of prescribing. Physician and patients are then able to have meaningful conversations about the cost of a specific treatment plan or other available alternatives. AB 2352 enables decision-making to occur where it should – between a patient and their physician.

To learn more about how this new law may help you watch the following video: [**AB 2352, the PRICE Act with California Assemblymember Nazarian - YouTube**](#)

Financial Assistance Programs for IVIG and Other Medications

When it comes to treating the over 100 different types of neuropathy, out-of-pocket costs can put medications out of reach for some patients. Worse, pharmacy benefit companies increasingly are restricting the list of drugs they will cover, leaving patients to pay the full cost of the medication they need. Consider, too, that neuropathy is a chronic disease, often requiring ongoing treatment. It's no wonder why the NAF receives so many calls from patients worried about access to their medications.

There is help. Most drug companies have various Prescription Assistance Programs. Additionally there are non-profit organizations that offer various types of assistance ranging from free medications to help with deductibles, coinsurance, loss of insurance, transportation and preservation of finances. The NAF recently created a document that lists various assistance programs that we help will allow you to continue or obtain your needed treatments and medications.

To read the NAF document [click here](#).

NAF Joins The Future of Pharmacy Care Coalition and Signs Group Letter

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 21, 2022 – The *Future of Pharmacy Care Coalition* announced today that more than 200 organizations, including physician and provider groups, patient advocacy organizations, health equity groups, rural health groups, pharmacists, health systems, and many others across communities, support H.R. 7213, bipartisan federal legislation that would ensure patient access to essential pandemic and pandemic-related health services provided by

pharmacists. Those groups are urging Members of Congress to support and advance H.R. 7213 to ensure Medicare beneficiaries can access pharmacist services for COVID-19, flu, strep throat, and RSV.

“We urge Congress to act quickly to advance H.R. 7213, to ensure that access to pharmacy care is made permanent for our communities,” wrote more than 80 organizations representing patients, physicians, providers, and other communities in a [letter](#) to the Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee, and House Committee on Ways and Means. “By acting on the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act, Congress can ensure pharmacist services are covered, alleviating gaps in care, preserving vital health care access in the future, and advancing health equity,” they added.

Earlier this year, Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI), David McKinley (R-WV), Nanette Barragán (D-CA), and Buddy Carter (R-GA) introduced [H.R. 7213](#), the *Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act*, legislation that would ensure Medicare Part B beneficiaries can benefit from pharmacists’ services related to COVID-19 and related diseases, including testing, immunization, and treatment initiation. The legislation establishes a reimbursement pathway for those services and ensures that seniors have access to these pharmacy and pharmacist-provided services during future public health emergencies. To date, more than 45 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed on to cosponsor the legislation.

H.R. 7213 would ensure access, especially for marginalized rural and urban populations, to important pharmacist services related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other illnesses, including:

- **Testing:** COVID-19, Influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Strep Throat
- **Treatment:** COVID-19, Influenza, and Strep Throat
- **Vaccinations:** COVID-19 and Influenza

“H.R. 7213 would permanently ensure that when the public health emergency ends or we find ourselves at the brink of another national health crisis, patients will not lose access to these critical pharmacist-provided health care services they have come to rely upon,” wrote 91 organizations representing America’s pharmacists and pharmacies in a [letter](#) to champion House sponsors of H.R. 7213. “Your legislation will ensure the continued ability of pharmacies and pharmacists to be a reliable lifeline to America’s communities,” they added.

“Congress should move quickly to pass H.R. 7213 to ensure pharmacists are reimbursed for critical care and services under Medicare Part B,” wrote 31 health systems in a [letter](#) to champion House sponsors of H.R. 7213. “In doing so, Congress will ensure Medicare beneficiaries can...receive treatment from pharmacists for pandemic-related health conditions and allow pharmacists to respond to ongoing and future public health threats to our nation,” they added.

[Click here](#) to see the complete list of groups supporting this legislation.

How Caregivers Can Avoid Burnout

By: Meredith Whitmore in August-September IG Living

With an aging population and soaring housing, assisted living and in-home healthcare prices, many people find themselves in the role of caregiver for an ailing loved one. Whether the role is part-time or full-time, caregiving tests a person’s limits — no matter how much the other

person is loved and respected.

The role of caregiver is not only physically difficult, it affects emotional and mental health. As a result, caregivers who do not take care of themselves pay a dear physical and emotional price. They also risk leaving their loved one in a more precarious position without them. And since many caregivers also work outside the home, their self-care is even more important to all. A 2020 American Association of Retired Persons and National Alliance for Caregiving survey found that one in five Americans (21.3 percent) are caregivers, offering care to an adult or special-needs child. That translates to roughly 53 million adult caregivers, an increase from 43.5 million in 2015. The survey also found that 19 percent of these caregivers are unpaid, 24 percent are caring for more than one person, 26 percent are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia and 61 percent of family caregivers are also working outside of the home.

Click link below to read full article

[IG Living Magazine August-September 2022](#)

The Most Ignored Side Effect of Chronic Illness

By Abbie Cornett in August/September 2022 IG Living

Many people are surprised to learn the most common side effect of chronic illness is frequently the one most often ignored by physicians: depression! Regrettably, the emotional dimensions of chronic conditions are often overlooked because physicians are not always trained to understand the psychological, social and cultural dimensions associated with them. Additionally, the signs of depression are easy to miss if patients do not discuss their feelings or do not recognize they are depressed. Oftentimes, signs of depression can mirror the symptoms of their illness such as changes in sleep patterns, decrease in appetite, poor concentration and exhaustion.

Despite the difficulties of identifying depression, it is essential to patients' well-being that they are diagnosed and treated. Even mild depression may reduce quality of life and affect patients' ability to follow treatment plans. What's more, depression can significantly increase the burden of illness in patients with chronic conditions. Patients who suffer from depression have almost twice as many days of restricted activity or missed work because of illness, and they experience a more rapid progression of the chronic condition, higher disease morbidity and mortality, decreased physical activity and increased use of tobacco and alcohol.

Risk factors for depression include a family history of depression, an illness that has resulted in a significant functional disability or.....

Click link below to read full article

[The Most Ignored Side Effect of Chronic Illness \(igliving.com\)](#)

**Support
the Neuropathy Action
Foundation.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Donate Today



Neuropathy Action Foundation | 1950 Old Tustin Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705

[Unsubscribe oldweirdharold@hotmail.com](mailto:oldweirdharold@hotmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@neuropathyaction.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!