



March 7, 2022

Chairman Vincent Gray
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 406, Washington, DC 20004

RE: B24-0557 – Copay Accumulator Protocols

Chairman Vincent Gray:

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition, I am writing in support of B24-0557. This legislation is important in ensuring patients – including those with movement disorders – can utilize copay coupons in order to afford the medications they need while being protected against surprise out-of-pocket costs.

The Movement Disorders Policy Coalition (MDPC) serves as a platform from which stakeholders, including health care providers and patients, can provide input on policy decisions impacting patient-centered care for those living with movement disorders. As a coalition of stakeholder groups across the movement disorders space, MDPC advocates at the federal, state, and health plan levels for key health reforms that increase access to personalized care for patients with movement disorders including tardive dyskinesia, Parkinson’s disease, essential tremor, Tourette Syndrome, dystonia, ataxia and Huntington’s disease.

For patients in commercial health plans, copay coupons can be critically important in affording their medications. These copay coupons provide payment toward the prescription cost-sharing requirements patients manage, allowing patients to access their medications. However, a now common insurance practice called “copay accumulator programs” limits copay coupons’ benefit for patients. Insurance companies will still accept the coupon payment, but the copay accumulator programs disallow copay coupon payments from contributing to a patient's annual deductible, or out-of-pocket cost limit, which can lead to surprise out-of-pocket costs.

The increased cost to movement disorder and other patients as a result of copay accumulator programs can be devastating for the health and well-being of patients. These surprise out-of-pocket costs can force patients to ration or discontinue their medications and treatments, leading to new or worsening symptoms, new side effects, or increased physician visits. This can be dangerous for patients and places undue burden and risk on patients already managing complex movement disorders.

B24-0557 will protect access by ensuring that all payments made on behalf of an insurance plan member, including those payments made using a copay coupon, are counted toward that patient’s out-of-pocket maximum. This protects patients, including those with movement disorders, by ensuring continuous access to the medication they need – without fear of surprise out-pocket costs.

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition and our membership, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If we can provide further details or answer any questions, please reach out to Josie Cooper at jcooper@allianceforpatientaccess.org.

Sincerely,



Josie Cooper
Executive Director
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition

Co-Signing Organizations:

Alliance for Patient Access
American Parkinson Disease Association
Caregiver Action Network
Dallas Area Parkinson Society (DAPS)
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Hawai'i Parkinson Association
HD Reach
National Ataxia Foundation
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
Parkinson's Foundation
Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research