

June 26, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley, Neal and Pallone and Ranking Members Wyden, Brady and Walden:

The undersigned organizations write in support of legislation to provide for the utilization of real-time benefit tools (RTBTs) in the Medicare program.

We know you are interested in increased transparency into prescription drug costs, and RTBTs can provide prescribers and consumers with meaningful, accurate and actionable data about their drug costs. RTBTs provide information at the point of prescribing on the patient's out of pocket costs, plan formulary information on covered drugs and appropriate lower cost therapeutic alternatives, and prior authorization, when required. Armed with this valuable information, a prescriber is then able to engage the patient in a meaningful discussion during the office visit about their care, their prescription medications, and answer any questions. This real-time information is available in the prescriber's office, at the point in time when the patient can act to lower their costs and avoid surprises and delays at the pharmacy counter. These tools are designed to be accessed easily as part of a physician's normal workflow in the electronic health record (EHR).

Nearly 75 million prescriptions are abandoned each year, many due to cost. RTBTs improve medication adherence by matching the patient's prescriptive need to a medication they can afford. These tools also reduce provider burden and burn out by eliminating the back and forth communications between the pharmacist and the prescriber when a patient leaves the pharmacy without their needed medication or requests a change.

Commercial use of RTBTs has shown great success – 89 percent of payers have already adopted these tools, and 85 percent of EHRs have RTBT information integrated into their system. Medicare beneficiaries face uncertain costs at the pharmacy counter and a lack of price transparency for their prescribed medications. Therefore, we encourage the adoption of legislation that would require adoption within Medicare.

If enacted, legislation to drive the use of RTBTs in Medicare will improve drug price transparency while also improving patient care coordination and primary medication adherence. We also

believe RTBTs will promote efficiencies for pharmacies, plans, providers, and their vendor partners that will ultimately lower administrative and medical costs.

Simply put, current technology is capable of combining patient eligibility and benefit, plan specific formulary, and pharmacy data to provide a complete and accurate picture of out-of-pocket costs and lower-cost options to prescribers and patients at the point in time when it is useful and actionable: the physician's office.

Driving the use of RTBTs in the Medicare program would produce savings, reduce provider and pharmacist burdens, and improve patient access to critical medications. We support legislation that provides for and expands its use in the Medicare program.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you to encourage the use of RTBTs within Medicare.

Sincerely,

America's Business Benefit Association

Communicating for America

Council for Affordable Health Coverage

CoverMyMeds

Curadite

CVS Health

eHealth

Health Innovation Alliance

Healthcare Leadership Council

McKesson

Prescriptions for a Healthy America