



Support the “Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act” to ensure cancer patients’ receive access to life-saving oral chemotherapy drugs.

Quick facts about oral chemotherapy and this legislation:

- Chemotherapy used to treat various cancers is increasingly available in the marketplace in oral form, which can provide patients with greater convenience and physical comfort in their treatment.
- Health insurance often covers oral drugs under patients’ prescription drug plans, which are generally not as comprehensive or financially feasible as plans’ coverage for IV drugs.
- This disparity in coverage can leave cancer patients forced to choose between paying for orally administered smart drugs, which can be taken at home but can cost upwards of \$50,000 a year, or sitting for hours at a time in a health care facility while they undergo lengthy and physically difficult IV chemotherapy treatments.
- **Cancer drug parity legislation would require group and individual health insurance coverage of oral cancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for intravenously administered anticancer medications.**
- In addition to the benefits of existing oral chemotherapy drugs, the growth rate of new oral oncology products is estimated to be between 20 percent and 30 percent in 2011.
 - More than 25 percent of the 400 oncology agents in the drug pipeline are estimated to be in an oral form.
- As research indicates, the future of cancer drug treatments will be more complex and tailored to the particular needs and genetic disposition of individual patients, with smart drugs growing as a preferred treatment method.
- **Our nation’s health system should catch up with where science is taking us, and allow cancer patients to access the prescribed treatments they prefer and deserve.**

Members: Please co-sponsor legislation to improve cancer patients’ access to life-saving oral chemotherapy.