



Policymakers Experiencing the Patient Journey with *Sit in My Chair*



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CPANs' Advocacy Focus



The Community Oncology Alliance Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN) raises awareness on the value of independent, community oncology cancer care centers and **how national and local health care policy issues may affect patient care.**

This means – advocating for any issues that get between physicians and their patients often disrupting or delaying treatment



Building Relationships at the National Level

COA/CPAN Advocates on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC May 2024



What We Asked for During Our Time On Capitol Hill, Washington, DC



- 1. Stop CMS' restrictions on the delivery of oral cancer medications**, ensuring patients can receive their medications in a manner that best suits their needs.
 - **Support the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act (H.R. 5526, S. 3458).**
- 2. Advance overdue PBM reform bills** to curb PBM abuses and bad behavior. There are multiple, bipartisan, and important PBM reform bills this Congress must pass, including the
 - **Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (H.R. 5378)**
 - **Modernizing and Ensuring PBM Accountability Act (S. 2973)**
 - **Neighborhood Options for Patients Buying Medicines (NO PBMs) Act (H.R. 5400, S. 2436).**
- 3. Tackle insurer abuses** by eliminating restrictive prior authorization and step therapy practices, especially within Medicare Advantage
 - **Support the Safe Step Act (H.R. 2630, S. 652).**

CPAN Advocates on Capitol Hill



What is the COA/CPAN **Sit In My Chair** Event?

- Our Sit in My Chair event provides the opportunity for our legislators/policymakers to have a better understanding of the value of independent community oncology through the process of a mock patient experience
- Representatives get to hear from patients and providers about the experience of treatment and why independent community oncology practices are the preferred care setting
- Representatives gain a deeper understanding of the barriers to care caused by PBMs and Insurers

What to Do **Before** Hosting A **Sit In My Chair** Event



1. Invite Your Lawmaker to Visit Your Practice

- **Identify your state and federal representatives at openstates.org.**

2. Plan the Visit

- Schedule the Sit In My Chair visit for a time when the lawmaker is back in your community. Federal lawmakers have an annual recess each August, while state legislative calendars vary.

What To Do **The Day of Your Sit In My Chair Visit**

Show Your Lawmaker the Patient Journey

- **Introduce your lawmaker to THEIR constituents including patients and your staff**
- **Go through a mock cancer treatment**
 - Checking in, Setting up an IV, Sitting in the chemotherapy chair
- **Following their patient experience**
 - Have them meet with physicians, nurses, social workers, on-site pharmacists, or financial counselors to show the breadth of independent practices' offerings.
 - Give them a tour of your practice to highlight the high-quality care that supports patients throughout their journeys (e.g., on-site research department, on site pharmacy).

What to ASK for During Your **Sit In My Chair** Event

Highlight ways the lawmaker can help preserve independent cancer care by supporting policies that:

- 1. Ensure independent community oncology practices can stay open for patients.**
 - Patients' ability to get the care they need can be negatively affected by inadequate physician reimbursement.
 - Practices may be forced to shut down or reduce access due to reimbursement issues, which limit patients' treatment.
- 2. Stand up to PBM abuses that harm patients.**
 - As middlemen corporations that play a large role in setting drug prices, **PBMs control how, when, and where patients access their drugs.**
 - PBMs compromise patient care by blocking timely and convenient access to prescription drugs and undermine the patient-physician relationship.
- 3. Protect patient access to lifesaving prescription medications.**
 - PBMs and insurers delay treatment access, worsen medication adherence, and restrict if, where, and when patients can get prescription drugs.
 - Critical shortages of generic cancer drugs severely delay care and harm patients.

After the **Sit In My Chair** Event



Follow up with:

- Thank You letters/emails



Examples of Successful Sit in My Chair Events

New York Congressman Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-2) participates in **Sit in My Chair** event at New York Cancer & Blood Specialists



Florida Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) Participates in **Sit in My Chair** event at Florida Cancer Specialists



Former Florida Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL-3) Participates in Florida Cancer Specialists CPAN's **Sit in My Chair** event



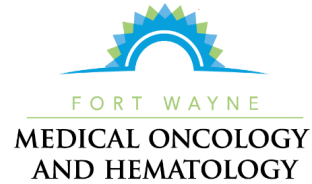


Building Relationships at the State Level

State Representatives from Florida, Indiana, and Ohio Participating in **Sit in My Chair** events



Tami Holiday, deputy Chief of Staff for Former Congressman Francis Rooney (R-FL-19)



Mary Martin the Regional Director for Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)



Mike King the Southwest Ohio Community Outreach and Public Engagement Representative for Senator Sherrod Brown's office (D-OH)

Hematology-Oncology Associates of Central New York **Sit in My Chair** Event



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New York Senator John Mannion (D-NY-50) participates in **Sit in My Chair** event at Hematology-Oncology Associates of Central New York



New York State Representatives participating in HOACNY Sit in My Chair Events



Emily Cole from Senator Chuck Schumer's office (D-NY)



Deputy Mayor of Syracuse Sharon Owens holding a bag of drugs worth \$100,000 that were wasted due to PBMs.

Thank You!
Chelsea Klock, RN, OCN

Don't miss our next Advocacy Chat on
Wednesday, July 17, at 12:00 pm ET