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Stakeholder Report



November 2, 2012

[Association Defines End of Session Agenda](#)

[Consumer Organizations Join Advocacy Call](#)

PPTA held a brief call with consumer group stakeholders to review PPTA's federal end of session advocacy priorities. PPTA discussed the uncertainty of the elections and looming fiscal cliff, which includes the potential for devastating reductions to federal spending under sequestration. The sequester will result in an 8.2% across the board cut to non-defense discretionary spending and 7.6% cut to non-defense mandatory spending. Medicare cuts under the sequester are capped at 2%, which would amount to a reduction in reimbursement to about ASP+3.6. If sequestration ultimately is repealed or pushed back in favor of another attempted at reaching a "grand bargain" of targeted reductions, other health care reductions could again be considered that may negatively affect patient access to plasma protein therapies.

The Association intends to use the lame duck session to target key legislators and focus on patient access issues including continued opposition to reductions in ASP+6 reimbursement under Medicare Part B, and its potential to harm access to care for rare, fragile patient populations that rely on plasma protein therapies. If Congress embarks on legislation to repeal sequestration, replacing it with targeted deficit reduction measures, PPTA will continue to advocate in favor of preserving the reimbursement level for Part B drugs, and we will carefully monitor proposals to include those seeking to expand the 340B program into the inpatient setting or attempt to reduce costs using least costly alternative, as well as other proposals that may gain traction that would limit patient access to plasma protein therapies

PPTA discussed a list of Congressional targets for outreach through the end of the year that included in addition to majority and minority key House and Senate Committee staff, a number of personal offices in both chambers to deliver the key message to preserve ASP+6 reimbursement. The Association suggested that while this may not be the chief advocacy ask or priority of the consumer organizations, if or when consumer group representatives are on Capitol Hill and in these offices or meeting with members of key committees, PPTA staff reiterated that it is extremely valuable to share your community's story of coping with a rare, chronic disease and the detrimental effect of cuts to ASP+6% reimbursement.

If the election forces any change in priorities, another call will be scheduled.

Representatives from the following organizations participated:

- Alpha-1 Association/Alpha-1 Foundation
- Committee of Ten Thousand
- GBS/CIDP Foundation International
- Hemophilia Federation of America
- Immune Deficiency Foundation
- Jeffrey Modell Foundation
- National Hemophilia Foundation

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