



March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Dear Missouri Congressional Delegation,

In January of this year, the Trump administration proposed additional “formulary flexibilities” for Medicare Part D plans through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Part D Payment Modernization Model. However, these “flexibilities” would target crucial patient safeguards for elimination: the six protected classes of medicines in Part D.

The six protected classes cover some of the most difficult-to-treat illnesses, such as cancer and mental illness, and their protected status ensures that patients will be able to access the exact medication that works best for them. The CMMI demo would waive the requirement for coverage of these six classes of drugs, essentially stripping them of their protected status. The demonstration also provides a waiver for the current “two drugs per class” requirement down to one, further eroding patients’ access to medications.

The six protected classes of drugs treat such complex illnesses as cancer, epilepsy, depression, psychosis, and HIV, they also cover immunosuppressants which are critical to preventing organ rejection following a transplant. Disruption of these types of treatments, which could easily happen under this demo, could result in fewer treatment options and worse health outcomes for patients. If a patient is stable on one immunosuppressant, but this demo forces them to change to another, and their body rejects their new organ, that is a costly change, both in terms of the quality of life for that patient and monetarily for our healthcare system.

This demo will only hurt patients, and it will not lower costs. We would like to see the Biden Administration put patients first and reverse this demo.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our concerns. We hope that the Administration steps in to prevent the CMMI demo from moving forward.

Sincerely,

American Liver Foundation

Community Liver Alliance

Empower: Abilities

Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons MAOPS

Missouri Biotechnology Association

National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match®

Prostate Network

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education

Vivent Health