Specialty Tiers: Restricting Access to Critical Medicines

Many insurance companies have increased patients’ out-of-pocket costs beyond their regular premiums. Formulary restrictions and high co-pays can prevent patients from getting the treatments they need.

Cost-Sharing Reduces Patient Access to Critical Medicines

Out-of-Pocket prescription costs are much higher than those of other medical services.

Patients can be responsible for Paying 1/2 the Cost of specialty drugs.

Patients with out-of-pocket expenses less than $100 were 7 Times More Likely to fill prescriptions than those paying $250 or more.

Specialty Tiers Are Becoming More Prevalent

The number of ACA Silver Plans that charge patients coinsurance rates of more than 30% for specialty medications have increased from 27% of plans in 2014 to 41% in 2015.

Specialty tiers can triple the annual cost of HIV drugs.

Doubling Medication Co-Pays for Chronic Conditions

Reduces Use By 25% to 45%

Increases Emergency Room Visits by 17%

Increases Hospitalizations by 10%