



Earlier this month, the [Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease](#) hosted a series of successful events in Sacramento and Los Angeles, called "Addressing California's Leading Cost in Health Care." The events examined the human and economic impact of chronic diseases here in California.



Through a Capitol briefing and two seminars, more than 200 leading patient advocates and health experts met to discuss the importance of combating chronic disease. Speakers included Rolf Benirschke, former San Diego Charger; Dr. Kenneth Thorpe, PFCD Chairman; Wayne Su, IHS Life Sciences Director; and prominent health care leaders from organizations that spread knowledge and awareness on a variety of chronic illnesses.

### Stay Connected



### About CPAT News

The California Partnership for Access to Treatment (CPAT) is pleased to provide our latest issue of *CA Access News*, a bi-monthly e-news publication for our partners, members and supporters.

This newsletter highlights state and national health care issues and trends.

CPAT's diverse network of advocacy organizations, community groups, health care providers and employers is committed to ensuring a healthy and productive California.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about CPAT's free health education network.



The Medicare Part D open enrollment period is quickly approaching!

This year, open enrollment starts on Saturday, October 15 and closes on Wednesday, December 7. With a wide variety of coverage options to choose from, Medicare Part D has a plan that will fit any patients' needs.

Check out this helpful [Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Toolkit](#) that patients can use when evaluating and updating their description drug plans based on individual health needs.

In the toolkit, you'll find informative statistics about Medicare Part D enrollees in California, websites that patients can visit to compare plans, and information about how Medicare Part D has and continues to provide seniors with comprehensive prescription drug coverage.

Also, stay tuned for CPAT's [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed for additional information about this important open enrollment period.



State health insurance exchanges throughout the country have allowed millions of patients to obtain coverage. Unfortunately, as we've come to learn, sufficient coverage does not always equal comprehensive care.

[Access Better Coverage](#) takes an in-depth look at some key challenges that patients may face when obtaining coverage through the California health insurance exchange. [For example](#), Silver plan enrollees may experience issues with deductibles and accessing the

## Health Access Resources

CPAT helps connect partners to information about the changing nature of health care as well as innovations in treatments:

### [My Patient Rights](#)

The California Chronic Care Coalition launched this online resource for Californians who have been denied coverage, experienced delays, or are dissatisfied by the decisions made by their health plan.

### [Access Better Coverage](#)

Educational resource designed to help consumers understand the ABCs of health coverage and access to prescription medicines.

### [From Hope to Cures](#)

Stories about patients who have overcome rare, debilitating and chronic diseases.

most effective treatments for their particular health circumstances.

While regulators have made substantial attempts to ensure the efficiency of exchange markets and the quality of coverage plans, some state policies need improvement, as they've ultimately created additional barriers to access.

[Learn more](#)

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Ever leave the doctor's office unable to pronounce, let alone comprehend, your diagnosis and treatment regimen? Patients are often burdened by confusing medical jargon, and unfortunately this misunderstanding can often lead to medication non-adherence.

Dedicated to closing the adherence gap, the [Medication Adherence Alliance](#) has recently launched a new website that offers providers, family members and care givers information about new treatment innovations; notifications about funding opportunities; and updates on medication adherence policies.

The Alliance's [Patient Toolkit](#) even highlights products like Polyglot, an easy-to-use resource that cuts through medical jargon and delivers simpler, personalized instructions for maintaining treatment schedules. Additionally, the [Provider Toolkit](#) assists health care professionals in determining whether their patients are following treatment plans.

[Learn more](#)

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In some cases, patients have trouble calculating out-of-pocket expenses when choosing an insurance plan. These cost discrepancies are often the result of high cost-sharing for medicines and can quickly become burdensome for those with multiple chronic conditions.

[PhRMA](#) and [Access Better Coverage](#) are working to empower consumers to choose health care plans that don't break the bank. They've proposed a detailed list of potential [solutions](#) to help consumers make more informed decisions when purchasing care, such as an out-of-pocket expenses calculator that delivers more personalized results to patients.

[Learn more](#)

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Alzheimer's researchers have been working tirelessly toward a cure for decades and, while a total of 123 medicines to fight Alzheimer's were halted between 1998 and 2014, four were approved.

A new [report](#) shows how these setbacks have only served to further motivate researchers. In fact, recent innovations have led to a new class of medicines called BACE inhibitors, which target a specific underlying component of Alzheimer's - not just the symptoms.

Researchers are thrilled to report that in the United States today, five BACE inhibitors are in late stage development. The Alzheimer's community remains optimistic that recent progress could lead to a cure for this truly debilitating disease.

[Learn more](#)

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Nearly three out of four Americans report that they do not always take their medications as directed. This poor

adherence leads to serious health consequences and billions of dollars annually in avoidable health care costs. People with chronic conditions are especially at risk, yet far too many do not understand how and why they should take their medications.

To address this problem, in 2011 the National Consumers League launched the national [Script Your Future](#) medication adherence awareness campaign. In California, a coalition of 60+ statewide, regional, and community-based organizations, elected officials, patient advocacy groups, public agencies, and industry leaders are committed to increasing medication adherence to improve health outcomes.

Learn more about medication adherence strategies, get involved in local efforts, and download or order free medication adherence campaign materials in multiple languages [here](#).

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