

TO: Healthcare Leadership Council

FR: Morning Consult

DT: July 2021

RE: Results: Medicare Part D Recipients' Perceptions of Medicare Negotiations

A majority of seniors on Medicare Part D are concerned about the potential impacts of the government setting prices of medicines and determining which are covered under Medicare. They also support measures to keep prescription costs low and increase transparency.

Medicare Part D Negotiation Preferences

SENIORS ON PART D ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY WE SHOULD KEEP THE CURRENT MEDICARE LAW TO STOP THE GOVERNMENT FROM DECIDING WHICH DRUGS ARE AVAILABLE (50%) THAN REFORM THE CURRENT MEDICARE LAW TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE COSTS WITH DRUG COMPANIES (30%).

- Among seniors on Part D, Republicans are more likely to say we should keep the current Medicare law to stop the government from deciding which drugs are available (65%) while Democrats are not strongly supportive of proposals to allow the government to negotiate costs with drug companies (39%) as opposed to maintaining the current Medicare law (39%).

A LARGE MAJORITY OF SENIORS ON PART D ARE NOT SUPPORTIVE OF CHANGING THE LAW SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN RESTRICT ACCESS TO DRUGS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY.

- Seniors on Part D were asked to rank support for a number of proposals, not all of which are covered here, on a ten-point scale from "0" (not supportive at all) to "10" (very supportive).
- Seniors on Part D are not supportive of allowing the federal government to set drug prices based on a calculation of the value of a patient's life (mean: 4.66).
- Seniors on Part D are even less supportive of changing the law in Medicare so that the government can restrict access to drugs for seniors and disabilities in order to save money for the federal government (mean: 2.89).

ON THE OTHER HAND, SENIORS ON MEDICARE PART D ARE SUPPORTIVE OF A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO KEEP COSTS LOW AND INCREASE TRANSPARENCY.

- They also support having Part D insurance plans set a maximum limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription medicines in each year (mean: 9.78).
- Seniors on Part D support allowing seniors with high out-of-pocket spending to spread out their payments over the year so they have more predictable costs month-to-month (mean: 9.03).
- They also support allowing seniors to use drug manufacturer co-pay coupons to reduce what they pay at the pharmacy counter, just like younger people are allowed to do in commercial health plans (mean: 9.81).
- Seniors on Part D support placing a cap on the amount patients pay out of pocket for their coinsurance, copays and other out of pocket costs (mean: 9.66).

IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE ALLOWED TO SET THE PRICES OF MEDICINES AND DETERMINE WHICH MEDICINES ARE COVERED UNDER MEDICARE, SENIORS ON PART D ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON CHOICE AND ACCESS TO MEDICINES.

Percentage of Seniors on Medicare Part D who are Concerned About the Following Potential Outcomes of the Government Setting Prices of Medicines or Determining which Medicines are Covered in Medicare*

% Concerned (strongly + somewhat)	Seniors on Medicare Part D
It would allow the government to restrict access to medicines that seniors and people with disabilities currently use	85%
It could result in seniors and people with disabilities needing to purchase additional supplemental insurance to cover medicines cut from the list of approved drugs.	85%
It could reduce choice and options for prescription drugs that a senior and people with disabilities can get in Medicare	84%
It would take away power from doctors to prescribe the medicines that best meet the needs of a senior and people with disabilities.	83%
It would add a layer of bureaucracy that seniors and people with disabilities would have to go through to get their medicines	83%
It could result in a benefit cut for seniors and people with disabilities	82%

*Some tested options not shown

Methodology: This poll was conducted by Morning Consult, on behalf of Healthcare Leadership Council, between June 24-June 29, 2021 among a sample of 1,000 Senior Voters with Medicare Part D. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.