

TO: Healthcare Leadership Council
FR: Morning Consult
DT: August 2023
RE: Views on Policy Implications



HEALTHCARE
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Most seniors are concerned about the impacts of government setting prices of medicines which are covered under Medicare. Seniors with Medicare would become increasingly dissatisfied with their Medicare prescription drug coverage if government price setting led to limited access to existing medicines, fewer medicine options available, or limited access to new and innovative medicines in the future.

SENIORS WITH MEDICARE WANT DRUG PLANS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BIOPHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, NOT THE GOVERNMENT

- Two-in-three (67%) seniors with Medicare indicate we should let Medicare Part D prescription drug plans negotiate discounts directly with the biopharmaceutical industry over letting the government set prices and decide what drugs will be covered under Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit (16%).
 - 2022: 66% negotiate directly with biopharmaceutical industry | 15% let government set prices

POLICY CHANGES THAT RESTRICT ACCESS TO DRUGS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE NOT POPULAR AMONG SENIORS WITH MEDICARE

- Seniors with Medicare 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 with Medicare are not 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: 2.68).
 - Seniors with Medicare 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: 3.61).
 - Seniors with Medicare are not supportive of reducing access to certain drugs so that the federal government can save money (Mean: 2.95).

SENIORS WITH MEDICARE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF POLICIES THAT LOWER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS AND INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

- Seniors with Medicare support ensuring that all patients are fully informed on what medicines are covered and the extent of their out-of-pocket payment requirements (Mean: 9.93).
- Seniors with Medicare support having Part D insurance plans set a maximum limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription medicines in each year (Mean: 9.44).
- Seniors with Medicare 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: 8.62).
- Seniors with Medicare support placing a cap on the amount patients pay out of pocket for their coinsurance, copays and other out of pocket costs (Mean: 9.56).



SENIORS WITH MEDICARE ARE CONCERNED THAT NEW PRICE SETTING LAWS COULD RESTRICT ACCESS TO MEDICINES FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Percentage of Seniors with Medicare who are Concerned with the Following Potential Consequences of Government Price Setting		
Potential Consequences of Government Price Setting*	% Total Concerned (Very + Somewhat)	
	2023**	2022
The government could restrict access to medicines that seniors and people with disabilities currently use.	81%	83%
It could reduce choice and options for prescription drugs that seniors and people with disabilities can get in Medicare.	80%	83%
It would put the government between seniors and their doctors when it comes to making decisions about what medicine is best.	80%	82%
It adds a layer of bureaucracy that seniors and people with disabilities have to go through to get their medicines.	79%	N/A
It could limit people's access to newer prescription medicines.	79%	82%

SENIORS WITH MEDICARE WOULD BE UNSATISFIED WITH THEIR PART D COVERAGE BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL OUTCOMES FROM GOVERNMENT PRICE SETTING LAWS

- Seniors with Medicare would be overwhelmingly unsatisfied with their Part D coverage if they knew that government price setting could limit access to existing medicines (83% unsatisfied), fewer medicine options would be available to them (82%), or that you would there could be limited access to new and innovative medicines in the future (80%).

*Some tested options not shown **2023 question language altered to reflect passing of Inflation Reduction Act

2023 Methodology: This poll was conducted by Morning Consult, on behalf of Healthcare Leadership Council, between August 3-7 among a sample of 1,000 Seniors Voters with Medicare. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

2022 Methodology: This poll was conducted by Morning Consult, on behalf of Healthcare Leadership Council, between June 28-July 1, 2022 among a sample of 1,005 Seniors Voters with Medicare. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.