

NICA Press Release: Morning Consult Poll on Infusion Centers & Medicaid Rule

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National Poll Reveals Majority of Americans Are Concerned About How a CMS Medicaid Rule Will Harm Infusion Providers

National Poll Demonstrates Strong Support For Non-Hospital, Community-Based Infusion Centers Who Will Suffer as a Result of a CMS-Proposed Rule to “Stack” Medicaid Drug Discounts

AUSTIN, TX, March 14, 2024 – Today, the National Infusion Center Association (NICA) released results from a national poll of over 10,100 individuals conducted by Morning Consult. The poll surveyed participants on the value of non-hospital, community-based infusion providers and the potential impacts of a federal proposal to drastically change the way drug discounts are managed in the Medicaid program. The national poll found that two-thirds of Americans are concerned about the impact that a proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule change regarding discount “stacking” could have on non-hospital, community-based infusion centers. The CMS proposed rule change to the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program would force drug manufacturers to stack or aggregate drug discounts provided to all stakeholders throughout the healthcare supply chain to determine the “best price,” including non-hospital infusion providers and pharmacies. If enacted, this CMS rule change could harm patient access to lifesaving medication, patient privacy, and future innovation in drug therapies.

Brian Nyquist, MPH, President and CEO of the National Infusion Center Association (NICA) stated:

“The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must heed the call from American voters, policymakers, and other concerned stakeholders and withdraw the proposed ‘stacking’ policy in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program to protect infusion providers, the patients they care for, and the environment that enables continued innovation in infusion therapies.”

NICA is concerned that if the CMS rule is finalized, infusion providers will be unable to acquire and administer critical medications, forcing patients to forgo treatment or receive care in a higher-cost setting. Results from the poll demonstrate that Americans recognize the importance of non-hospital, community-based infusion centers and are seriously concerned with how infusion centers may be impacted by the proposed “stacking” policy.

Key findings from the national poll of American voters include:

- **Two-thirds of adults are concerned about the impact the proposed rule will have on non-hospital, community-based infusion centers.** 84% of those who identified as highly knowledgeable about infusion centers indicated they were very or somewhat concerned about the rule change.



- **American voters view non-hospital, community-based infusion centers as critical to the healthcare system and patients.** 75% of polled Americans see non-hospital, community-based infusion centers as very or somewhat important to the healthcare system and patients.
- **Nearly two-thirds of adults polled agreed that protecting non-hospital, community-based infusion centers should be a priority for government officials.** In the poll, 64% of respondents indicated that protection of non-hospital, community-based infusion centers should be important for government officials.

In February, the National Infusion Center Association (NICA) led a sign-on letter to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure outlining the harm of the proposed “stacking” policy. The [letter](#) was co-signed by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO), National Organization of Rheumatology Management (NORM), and the Rheumatology Nurses Society (RNS). The letter urges CMS to withdraw this proposal and work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including infusion providers, to develop policies that truly benefit patients without disrupting access, innovation, and patient privacy.

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About the National Infusion Center Association

The National Infusion Center Association (NICA) is a nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve and advance the trade of furnishing provider-administered medications in non-hospital, community-based care settings. NICA’s efforts are focused on addressing and overcoming challenges and threats to the sustainability of the most affordable care setting for provider-administered medications.