



March 1, 2021

Dear Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson,

On behalf of our patients, we the undersigned organizations ask that you oppose the recent changes to the Medicare Part D Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMMI) demonstration proposed by the previous administration in their final days in office. If allowed the move forward, the formulary “flexibilities” would have a significant and negative impact on many Medicare beneficiaries since it would limit access to medications within the Six Protected Classes.

The demonstration would dismantle the protection that most or all of the medications within each of the six class be covered by Part D plans and instead require that only one drug per class be covered. The demonstration would be fully implemented over a two-year period.

Unfortunately, this would leave many of the most at-risk patients facing unprecedented barriers to accessing the medications they need to manage serious and chronic conditions. The drugs in these classes are used to treat complicated conditions including HIV, cancer, mental illness, seizure disorder, and even medications to support organ donation.

Worst of all, the demonstration would limit access for patients, yet do nothing to reduce their medication costs. Therefore, we urge you to ask the Biden administration to reject this payment model and instead work directly with Congress to come together on solutions that prioritize patients over costs.

We thank you for you for the work you do on behalf of our patients and all South Dakotans.

Sincerely,

American Autoimmune Related Diseases
Association
American Liver Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of South Dakota

Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
NAMI South Dakota
South Dakota Pharmacists Association
SURVIVEiT