

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR MULTIPLE MYELOMA: HEALTHWELL FOUNDATION PROVIDES SUPPORT

By Fred Larbi, MBA
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Every day we see changes in our healthcare landscape and the impact those changes have on patients living with chronic or life-altering illnesses.

In 2025, the Inflation Reduction Act capped Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 annually for Medicare beneficiaries, welcome relief for the patients we serve.

However, millions of patients still need financial assistance, partly because therapies covered under Medicare Part B come with a 20% coinsurance, meaning patients must pay 20% of the cost of such therapies. And, there is no annual cap on that requirement.



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People living with cancer often not only endure the financial burden of treatment, but also the challenge of determining how to afford basic daily necessities, such as groceries or rent.

Unfortunately, this is a scenario we encounter too often at the HealthWell Foundation. Many Medicare beneficiaries are living on fixed incomes and even the slightest increase in expenses can cause devastating financial consequences, preventing them from affording and adhering to prescribed treatments. A recipient of a HealthWell Foundation Multiple Myeloma – Medicare Access Fund grant recently told us he

“Without the HealthWell Foundation’s help, I could not afford the medicine and probably would not be here.”

Daryl
Multiple Myeloma – Medicare
Access Fund Grant Recipient

“would probably not be here” if he had not received financial assistance.

“In May of 2018, I was diagnosed with aggressive multiple myeloma,” explained grant recipient Daryl of York, Pennsylvania. “I was on vacation in Florida, when I received a phone call from a specialty pharmacy saying I needed to start a drug immediately. They would ship the drug to me for next-day delivery. They said it cost \$17,000 for 21 pills for a 28-day supply. And that my copay was \$3,200.

“When I told the woman on the phone that I couldn’t afford that, she asked if anyone told me about grants to help pay for the medicine. I said no, and she asked if I could hold on a few minutes.

“She contacted HealthWell Foundation, asked me a few questions and then said I was approved for a grant. She said they would pay my copay. I received the medicine the next day and have been on it ever since.

“In November 2018, I had an autologous stem cell bone marrow transplant. I went into remission in December 2021 and I am now on a maintenance dose every month. HealthWell Foundation

pays my copays through my grant, which I renew every year.

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At HealthWell, we continue working to break down financial barriers to patient care. Through our robust disease portfolio of 100 funds, including 40 funds in oncology, we provide solutions for Medicare patients living with multiple myeloma and a variety of cancers.

Our Multiple Myeloma – Medicare Access Fund offers a 12-month grant of up to \$8,000 for prescription copayments, deductibles and Medicare Part B premium assistance to eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

Through the fund, patients not only receive assistance with their prescription copayments and deductibles, they also can offset their insurance premium costs through a one-time switch from copayment assistance to premium assistance.

Individuals living with multiple myeloma have many obstacles to overcome. The ability to afford treatment or health insurance premiums should not be one of them.

While funding is available, let HealthWell help your Medicare patients living with multiple myeloma and give them one less thing to worry about.



For more information about the HealthWell Foundation’s Multiple Myeloma-Medicare Access Fund, scan the QR code above.



When health insurance is not enough.®

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