

Updates and Introductions

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As ACCC's new Director, Cancer Care Delivery and Health Policy, I look forward to communicating with the Association's interdisciplinary membership about important issues. In addition to the four priorities ACCC has previously announced as a focus for 2023,¹ I will delve into additional policy areas impacting patients with cancer, such as ensuring ongoing access to care through telehealth, increasing access to and diversity in clinical trials, and advancing value in the provision of (and payment for) oncology care. Together with ACCC's blog, ACCCBuzz, I will also use this bi-monthly column to highlight urgent issues that arise for ACCC members and patients with cancer, such as the current shortage of anti-cancer medicines highlighted in the Association's June 15 statement.²


ACCC advances its priorities in several ways, including letters of support for specific pieces of legislation that our members can personalize and send to their elected officials using the [ACCC Legislative Action Center](#). ACCC also works with a range of coalitions to voice support for (or concern about) proposed legislation, regulations, or policies. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the membership, ACCC often partners with organizations that represent clinician groups, such as physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, among others.

For example, in March, ACCC joined a broad coalition of patients, advocacy organizations, cancer centers, and healthcare professionals to sign a letter in support of The Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act.³ ACCC policy priorities also align with an American Medical Association-led effort that developed guiding principles related to the use of prior authorizations and utilization management.⁴ "This group

strongly urges health plans, benefit managers, and any other party conducting utilization management ("utilization review entities"), as well as accreditation organizations, to apply the following principles to utilization management programs for both medical and pharmacy benefits."³ Not only does this effort align nicely with the Association's focus to preserve provider and patient choice and to reduce delays in care due to utilization management, it complements tools and resources ACCC has developed as part of its Prior Authorization Clinic.⁵

And now I would like to take the opportunity to share a little bit about myself. Trained as an attorney, I have worked on health care legislation, regulations, and policy for more than 25 years in the U.S. and internationally. My experience spans the public, non-profit, and private sectors and has afforded me the opportunity to advise senior government officials, corporate executives, and policy experts on a range of issues affecting access to health care coverage and services. My work has focused on the development, implementation, and analysis of comprehensive and incremental health coverage and systems reforms.

My family's history with cancer has also fueled my passion for ACCC's mission and work. While my father's prostate cancer was diagnosed early and treated effectively, my mother had a different experience. Her ovarian cancer was diagnosed at a later stage and, after more than 5 years of varied and difficult treatments, she succumbed to the disease in her sixties. I was fortunate to be able to help my mother navigate aspects of her treatment journey, and I

look forward to my personal and professional experiences informing my work with ACCC, its diverse membership, and its broad advocacy and policy agenda. 

References

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