

fast facts

5 Ways the AMA is Fighting for Physicians in 2024

These advocacy initiatives are all part of the [AMA Recovery Plan for America's Physicians](#).

1. Reforming Medicare payment
2. Fixing prior authorization
3. Fighting scope creep
4. Reducing physician burnout
5. Transforming digital health.

Source. AMA. [5 ways the AMA is fighting for physicians in 2024](#).



Cancer Drug Shortages Continue

- According to a NCCN survey fielded May 28 through June 11, 2024, ongoing drug shortages are affecting clinical trials at **43%** of responding cancer centers by impacting budgeting and enrollment, and raising administrative burden.
- **27%** of responding cancer centers reported treatment delays due to shortage-related changes that required additional prior authorization.
- These cancer centers continue to mitigate the impact of shortages through a combination of strategies, including waste reduction management plus adjusted timing and dosage within evidence-based ranges.
- **75%** of responding cancer centers state they would like to see economic incentives put in place to encourage the high-quality manufacturing of medications, especially generic versions that are often in short supply; **64%** felt there was a need for a broader buffer stock payment.

Source. NCCN Findings on Cancer Drug Shortages: [New Information and Survey Results from June 2024](#).

Trends in Commercial Payer Coverage for Digital Medicine

1. Lack of coverage alignment across commercial payers, Medicare, and Medicaid
2. Inconsistent coverage policies within the commercial market
3. Inconsistent levels of transparency for coverage policies within the commercial market
4. Time lag for determining coverage policies within the commercial market
5. Limited widespread utilization of most new digital medicine services
6. Partnerships between commercial payers and health tech companies.

Source. AMA Future of Health issue brief: [Commercial Payer Coverage for Digital Medicine Codes](#).





September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

↑ Increases Risk

- Family history of ovarian, breast, uterine, or colorectal cancer
- Genetic mutations like BRCA1, BRCA2, and Lynch syndrome
- Personal history of cancer or endometriosis
- Age
- Reproductive history and infertility
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Obesity

↓ Decreases Risk

- Oral contraceptive use
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Surgical removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes
- Hysterectomy/tubal ligation

Source: [Risk factors](#). Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance.



Physicians Continue to Report Burdens from Prior Authorizations

- **95%** of physicians report that prior authorizations somewhat or significantly increase physician burnout.
- On average, practices complete **43** prior authorizations per physician, per week.
- Physicians and their staff spend **12 hours** each week completing prior authorizations.
- More than 1 in 3 (**35%**) of physicians have staff who work exclusively on prior authorization.
- 1 in 4 (**27%**) physicians report that prior authorizations are often or always denied.

Source: [2023 AMA Prior Authorization Physician Survey](#).

➔ more online @
acc-cancer.org



VIDEO

Beyond Bias: Promote Equity in Care

One of three vignettes featured in ACCC's Personalizing Care Video Series, which uses dramatization to reflect real-world experiences often observed in the community care setting. In this [video](#), when a woman expresses serious distress at the financial costs of her treatment, a financial navigator vents to a co-worker over the seeming dissonance between the patient's affluent presentation and her plea for a more flexible payment arrangement. Learn along with this financial navigator about the pitfalls of making assumptions and attempting to differentiate between patients who may or may not need additional support.



BLOG

A Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory Brings Cutting-Edge Care Closer to Home

Before Northwell Health Cancer Institute's [molecular diagnostics laboratory](#) opened this May, in Lake Success, New York, no facility on Long Island offered next-generation sequencing with point-of-care genomic testing. Today this lab's 8 genetic sequencers analyze solid tumor and blood samples for biomarkers and inform precision therapy for patients with cancer in the 6 counties that make up Northwell Health's catchment area—Queens, Nassau, Suffolk, Manhattan, Westchester, and Staten Island.



PUBLICATION

Advancing CAR T-Cell Therapy Care Continuity and Collaborative Patient Education

A comprehensive [summary](#) of a recent working summit convened by ACCC to improve collaboration between community cancer programs and academic medical centers. From this summit, the group suggested 3 calls to action: offer more peer-to-peer learning opportunities to help build trust, relationships, and share best practices; connect with patient advocacy groups to provide patient and caregiver support, education, and connections to other community resources; and engage with patients and caregivers to provide education and support services across the care continuum of CAR T-cell therapy.



PODCAST

Anemia Mitigation for Patients with Myelodysplastic Syndrome

Anemia on its own can exact a heavy toll on the quality of life for patients with myelodysplastic syndrome. This [CANCER BUZZ series](#) asks experts to weigh in on what can be done to help improve anemia symptom management for these patients in 3 key areas: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Anemia Management in High-Risk Patients, Defining and Managing Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents Failure in Low-Risk Patients, and Addressing Frequency of Care to Improve Quality of Life in Patients with Low-Risk.