



Assessing Access to Medications and other health-related barriers for People Living with Parkinson's

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The increase in treatment options for Parkinson disease (PD) in recent years has offered many people living with PD better symptom management and improved quality of life. However, factors such as cost, geography, access to specialty care, and health insurance coverage have affected the ability of all patients to benefit. As state and federal public policy decisions influence equal, affordable access, Parkinson and Movement Disorder Alliance (PMD Alliance), a US-based advocacy organization, created the PMD Alliance Policy Panel, a collaboration of diverse stakeholders including patients, care partners, clinicians, advocacy organizations, and biopharmaceutical and device companies. The panel gathers data to support development of meaningful solutions and policy proposals around access & affordability leading to real-world change.

Objective:

The Policy Panel created the Assessing Access to Medications for People Living with Parkinson's survey to better understand the PD community and their needs around medication access, cost and other health-related barriers.

Method:

This online survey was distributed by email to people with Parkinson's and care partners.

Results

Of the 345 respondents, most (76%) see a movement disorder specialist, nearly all (78%) have Medicare as their primary insurance coverage, and few (11%) receive any financial assistance for out of pocket (OOP) prescription drug costs. 89% take 3 or more medications total, and 44% take 3 or more medications for their PD. 66% were unaware of the Medicare Part D OOP prescription drug cap beginning in 2025, and nearly all (84%) believe lowering prescription drug costs should be a top policy priority. Ranked in order, the greatest pain points were: finding specialists, OOP medication costs, and health insurance premium costs. While 74% indicated paying for medication is not currently a difficulty, 95% are not confident their insurance will cover new medications and 62% of respondents want new, more effective therapies.

Conclusion:

While cost of medications was not the greatest concern of respondents, barriers do exist in accessing clinical care, understanding drug coverage, and overall healthcare cost burdens. Further assessment is warranted.



See a movement disorder specialist



Take three or more medications for Parkinson's

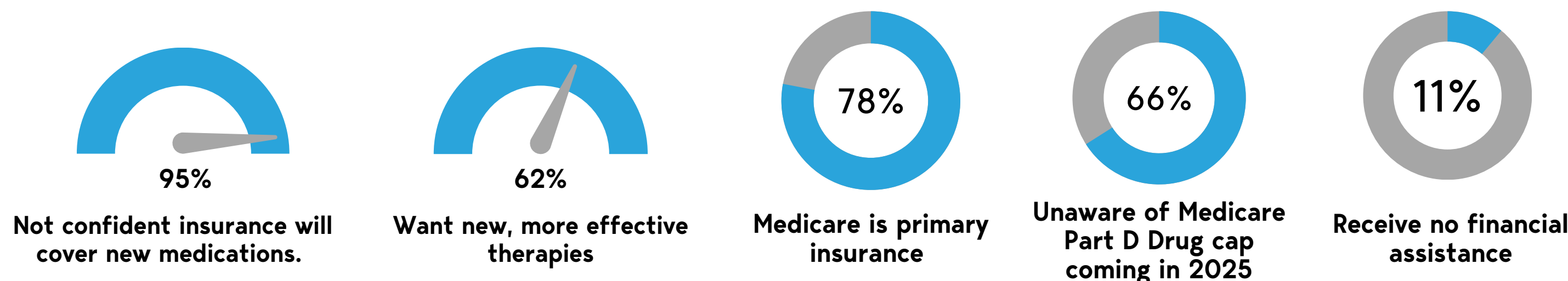


Take >3 medications for all conditions.



Affording medications is not a difficulty

Respondents greatest pain points



References:

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Key Takeaways:

- While respondents didn't indicate difficulty affording medications, they are concerned about access in the future.
- Knowledge gaps around insurance may impact access to care and treatments.
- Advancement of affordable treatment options is a priority.

The data from this survey may not reflect the experience of the larger population and a broader, inclusive survey is warranted.

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