



# Cancer Policy & COA Focus

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San Juan, Puerto Rico  
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# What's Hot in Cancer Policy?

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- Congress tried to double up on the current 2% Medicare sequester cut
  - Add another 2-4% on top of the current 2% sequester cut
- 340B Drug Discount Program in hospitals under fire
  - 2 congressional hearings and major Energy & Commerce report
  - 2 bills, so far
  - 3 new studies in past month alone
- New administration backing off forcing payment reform demonstrations but *oncology payment reform here to stay!*
- PBMs are out of control and they will come under increasing scrutiny of Congress and HHS/CMS



# What Else is Hot in Healthcare?

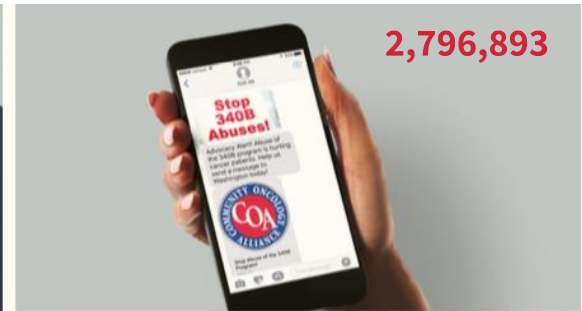
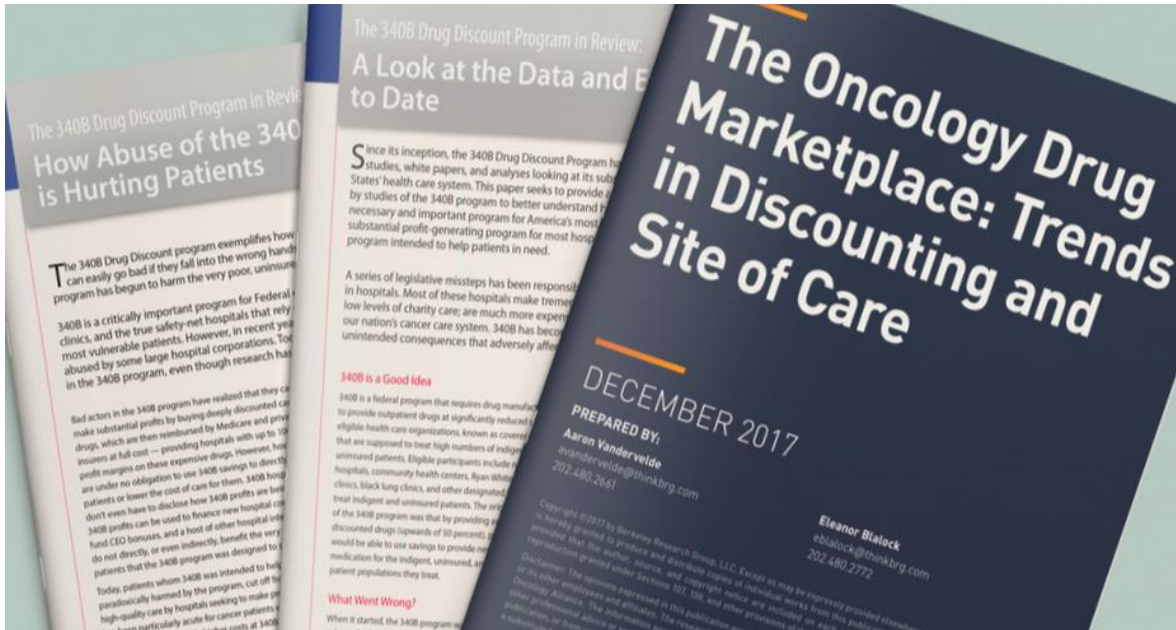
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- Republicans backing off “repeal and replace” of ACA/Obamacare
  - Individual mandate is gone with the tax bill
  - Behind the scenes moves that are weakening Obamacare
- President keeps promising to “bring down drug prices” but focus to date only has been with the FDA and 340B reforms
- Greater emphasis on reforming/restructuring Medicaid



2017

# Fighting for 340B Reform



- The only cancer organization pushing for real reform of 340B
- 2.8 million targeted Americans reached by COA 340B advocacy in 2017
- 1/4 of all comments to CMS on HOPPS cut proposal came via COA website and resources



2018

# The year so far...

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

## Consequences of the 340B Drug Pricing Program

- Bombshell study in NEJM released last week
- Conducted independently by Harvard & NYU researchers, and funded by HHS agency! (Health Resources and Services Administration)
- Found that 340B program associated with:
  - “hospital–physician consolidation in hematology–oncology”
  - “more hospital-based administration of parenteral drugs in hematology–oncology”
  - No “clear evidence of expanded care or lower mortality among low-income patients”



2018

# The year so far...



## New Study: Most Hospital's Payments Will Rise in 2018, Despite 340B Cuts



- COA commissioned study by Avalere, released this week
- 85% of hospitals will see net payment increase after recent 340B & Medicare payment changes
- Rural hospitals benefit the most, with much greater than average payment increases for 2018
  - Majority of hospitals will see 1.5% net increase
  - Rural hospitals will see 2.7% net increase



2017

# Stopping a New Medicare Sequester



- Threat of new 4% sequester cut to Medicare during budget negotiations
- COA coordinated massive emergency effort to warn Congress & Administration of impact to cancer care
- Emergency DC fly in to meet with policymakers and conducted extensive media outreach



2018

# Plans Going Forward

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- Trying to stop the current 2% Medicare sequester cut
  - Legislation
  - Legal action
    - Sequester cut is both illegal and unconstitutional
    - Lawsuit prepared to file an injunction against the government





# 2017 Shaping the Future of Oncology Payment Reform



- Hosted another successful Payer Exchange Summit on Oncology Payment Reform as part of COA's commitment to oncology payment reform
- Helping 80% of OCM practices succeed in a support network
- Developing the OCM 2.0 model as future of oncology payment reform



2018

# Plans Going Forward

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- Trying to make the OCM work, *which is an uphill battle!*
  - Poor communications
  - Lack of timely data
  - Lots of confusion and questions
- Working on the OCM 2.0 to create the “universal” model for cancer care payment
  - Flexible
  - Simple



# 2017 Fighting Growing Presence & Negative Impact of PBMs



- PBMs are harming patient care and hurting practices
- Murky PBM “direct and indirect remuneration” fees (commonly known as “DIR Fees”)
- In 2017, COA released 4 studies, 3 white papers, 2 videos, 1 legal paper on PBMs



2018

# Plans Going Forward

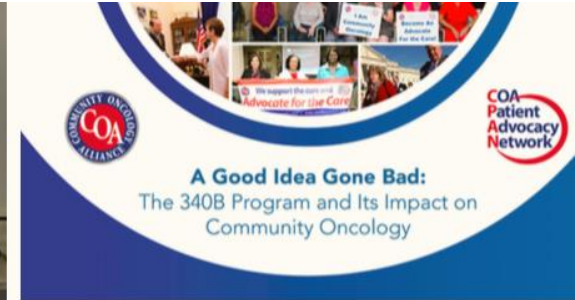
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- *Taking the fight to the PBMs!*
  - Legislative
  - Legal
  - Investigative
  - Advocacy
  - Press



2017

# Unprecedented Expansion of Patient Advocacy via CPAN



- COA Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN) chapters in practices
- Our grassroots army
- In 2017, the number of CPAN chapters nearly doubled. New chapters in Texas, New England, New York, & Washington State



2017

# Launched COA Fellows Initiative

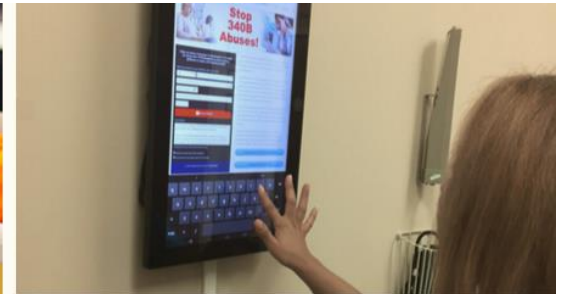
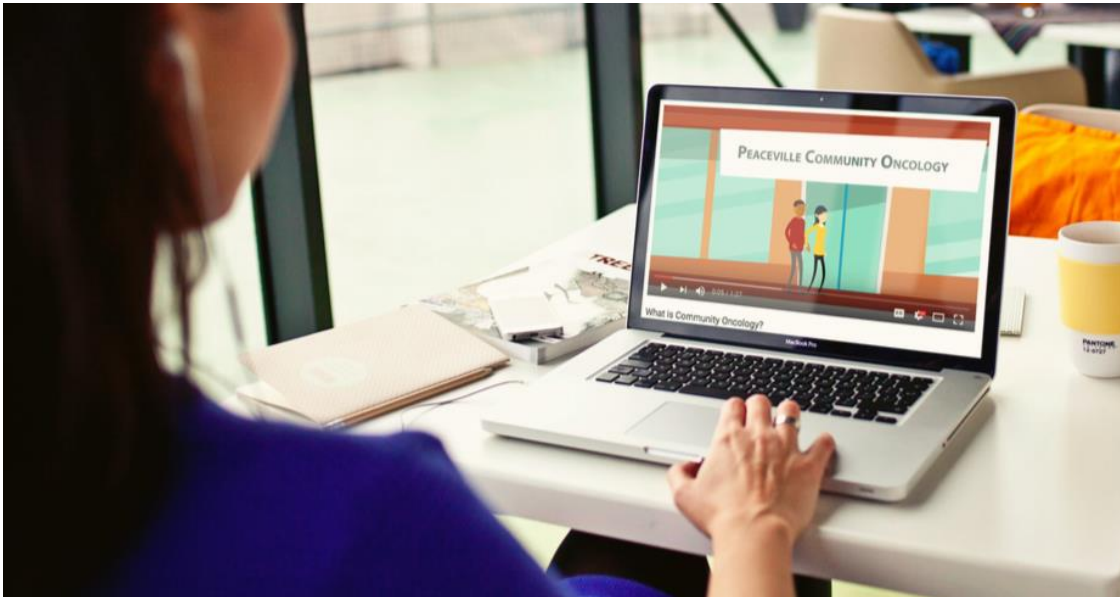
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- Educating future generations of community oncologists
- Hosted interactive educational events & dinners across country
- Includes job board for practices & grants for fellows to attend COA events



# 2017 Launched *I Am Community Oncology* Campaign



- Educate, engage, and activate public on value of community oncology
- Developing educational resources (waiting room materials, videos, web content), hosting local events, and more
- Highlight: COA TV waiting room network. Now live in 240+ practice locations with 1,000+ providers in 27+ states!



# 2017 Hosting the Largest Community Oncology Conference Ever



- Nearly 1,300 attendees joined us in 2017
- Join us this year, outside of DC on April 12-13, 2018 [www.COAConference.com](http://www.COAConference.com)





2018

# Puerto Rico Patient Assistance Fund

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- Over \$500,000 raised to aid patients with treatment and transportation
- Thanks to BMS, BI, Celgene, Foundation Medicine, Merck, Tesaro, and ASCO!!!



# Thanks!!!

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