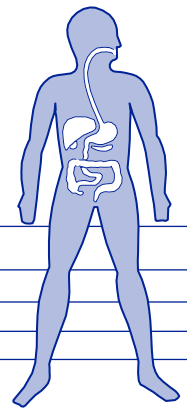


Digestive Disease National Coalition



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DDNC COVID-19 Priorities

As Congress and the administration continues to pursue policies to address the coronavirus pandemic, the Digestive Disease National Coalition urges that the following measures be adopted immediately to benefit our health care systems and patients during this unprecedented crisis:

Protect Health Care Workers and Facilities

- Increase funding for and access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) so health care workers can provide care as safely as possible. We applaud the Administration for activating the Defense Production Act to manufacture additional PPE, and urge the Administration to take further action to ensure an adequate supply of PPE reaches health workers and first responders on the front line in the battle against COVID-19.
- Support hospitals, health care practices, ambulatory surgery centers, and other health care facilities that have been financially devastated by the crisis as they provide care to patients, including small businesses that are subject to increased costs associated with the care of COVID-19 patients and lack needed equipment such as PPE.

Bolster Continuity of Care

- Require all public and private health insurance providers to temporarily suspend prior authorization and step therapy requirements.
- Ensure health insurance is continued through the duration of this crisis for everyone financially impacted by the virus, including furloughed workers, the unemployed, and those otherwise unable to afford health insurance premiums.
- Urge all public and private insurers to reimburse for telehealth at adequate levels.
- Guarantee patients and providers the flexibility to choose the site of the patient's infusions based on their local resources, including temporarily waiving site specific infusion authorization, providing temporary coverage for out of network infusions, and making it easier for patients to switch the delivery mechanism of their treatment from an infusion to a self-injectable if deemed medically appropriate by the patient and provider.
- Limit patient cost-sharing for infusions, including home infusions, to ensure that the patient can afford their treatment.
- Require all payers to allow the provision of an emergency supply of medications and medical supplies, such as ostomy supplies and catheters that patients rely on daily, by relaxing restrictions on the timing of refills and permitting amounts to at least the CDC-recommended extra 30-day supply standard to prevent disruption and ensure patient safety and health.

Invest in Emergency Preparedness

- Invest in research and public health interventions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other agencies to ensure a vigorous federal pandemic team is in place both now and in the future.