

# What does the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Mean for **CANCER PATIENTS?**

Passed in 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) contains several provisions which may reduce cancer patients' access to lifesaving treatments, including the newest innovative medicines as well as lower-cost biosimilar alternatives to existing products. Potential consequences for patients include:

- **REDUCED CANCER DRUG RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** as manufacturers shift investment away from "small molecule" drugs (widely used to treat cancer) due to IRA's "small molecule penalty," which shortens the length of time a manufacturer can receive a return on investment in these medicines.
- **DECREASED BIOSIMILAR DEVELOPMENT** as lower-cost biosimilars are driven out of the market, unable to compete against price-controlled reference products.
- **MORE CANCER DEATHS** as the U.S. enacts European-style price controls that discourage drug development and reduce access. Europe's cancer death rate is 1.7x higher<sup>1</sup> than the U.S.; applied to the U.S. population, this would mean an additional 400,000 cancer deaths annually- equivalent to losing a city the size of Minneapolis or Oakland to new cancer deaths every year.
- **HIGHER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS** as the IRA undoes the government non-interference provisions in Medicare Part D (the Prescription Drug Benefit) which have successfully generated savings and kept premiums flat for 20 years.

## ASBM EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines (ASBM) is leading the effort to raise awareness among patient and physician organizations about the consequences of the IRA. **Click or scan the QR codes below to learn more.**

### WEBINAR ON MEDICARE PRICE SETTING

Former U.S. government officials involved with the creation of Medicare's prescription drug benefit, a leading cancer patient advocate, a cancer drug developer, and other experts share their concerns with the policy.



### IRAPATIENTINFO.ORG

An educational website for patients containing news articles, infographics, videos, webinars, and other materials patients can use to learn about this policy's likely effects on drug innovation and access.



### PODCAST EPISODE

ASBM recorded this episode of the Ai Arthritis Voices 360 podcast in which Medicare Part D experts and leading patient advocates explain the consequences of the IRA for patients.



### FACT SHEET

What do patients need to know about the IRA and Medicare drug price negotiation?



### GABI JOURNAL WHITEPAPER

Published in the Generics and Biosimilars Initiative (GaBI) Journal, this report examining in great detail the IRA's detrimental effects on innovation and patient access.

