

The first half of 2019 has brought a steady stream of policy events, new educational materials and targeted initiatives designed to further patient access to approved therapies and patient-centered care. This report summarizes the efforts of the Alliance for Patient Access, the Institute for Patient Access and the Global Alliance for Patient Access from January through June 2019.

POLICY EVENTS

From national summits to Capitol Hill policy panels to physician-led working group meetings, AfPA and its affiliated organizations have produced a range of policy events this year. Events include:

- Annual [meeting](#) of AfPA's Respiratory Therapy Access Working Group (January 25-26)
- “[Disability and Migraine Disease: A Policy Panel Discussion](#)” presented by The Headache & Migraine Policy Forum (February 12)
- Joint [meeting](#) of AfPA's Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Working Groups (February 22-23)
- Inaugural [meeting](#) of AfPA's Headache & Migraine Disease Working Group (April 4-5)
- “[The Value Proposition](#),” the fourth annual National Policy & Advocacy Summit on Biologics and Biosimilars (April 10)
- Clinical Trials Awareness Week 2019, including a Capitol Hill [policy panel](#) on out-of-pocket barriers to clinical trials participation
- “[Breaking Point](#),” the second annual Cardiovascular Health Policy Summit (May 16).



EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

A Study of the Qualitative Impact of Non-Medical Switching. This first-of-its-kind national study – detailed in a [report](#), research [abstract](#), motion graphics [video](#), [podcast](#) and [infographics](#) – reveals the far-reaching impact of non-medical switching.

Biologics & Biosimilars Policy. A February 2019 [quick-draw video](#) explores the challenges of non-medical switching among botulinum neurotoxins, while a May 2019 “[Fast Facts](#)” examines the complex issue of naming biological medicines.

Cardiovascular Access Report Card. The third annual Institute for Patient Access Health Plan Coverage [Report Card](#) reveals that prior authorization continues to present access barriers to innovative PCSK9 inhibitors – even for more than [one in three](#) at-risk patients who meet prior authorization criteria.

Infant Health. The National Coalition for Infant Health continues to supply a steady stream of resources, including a “[Fast Facts](#)” on feeding challenges and “[Myths, Facts & Postpartum Depression](#),” a document to dispel misconceptions about the widespread but stigmatized condition faced by new mothers.

Position Statements. While pro-access messages about utilization management barriers run throughout AfPA and IfPA materials, a new series of position statements distill the organizations’ policy message into a one-page overview on issues such as [prior authorization](#), [step therapy](#) and [co-pay accumulator programs](#).

IfPA Policy Blog. The Institute for Patient Access [Policy Blog](#) has honed in on the Trump administration’s proposals on drug pricing, including efforts [to shift Medicare Part B drugs](#) to Part D, loosen protections of Medicare’s [six protected classes](#) and reform pharmacy benefit managers’ [rebate system](#). The blog also launched a monthly series titled “[By All Accounts](#),” which weaves together first-person accounts of how health plans’ cost-cutting schemes hurt patients.

Institute for Clinical and Economic Review. In addition to weighing in on the preliminary stages of ICER reviews of rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes therapies, the Institute for Patient Access issued a “[Fast Facts](#)” about what ICER does and how the organization impacts patient access.

JANUARY-JUNE 2019

13 
Policy Papers

26 
Infographics

 **9** Patient Access Podcasts

 **59** IfPA Blog Posts

9 
Educational Videos

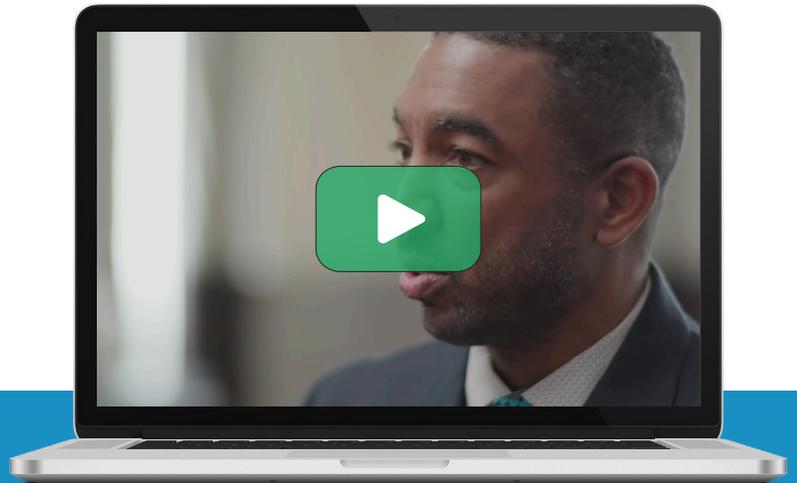
4 
Surveys & Studies

INITIATIVES SPOTLIGHT

The Partnership to Protect Patient Health took on new energy this year with a powerful testimonial video from two physicians who've seen patient treatment go awry because of "bad drug" ads. AfPA was particularly pleased to see efforts by the Partnership to Protect Patient Health move medical lawsuit advertising reform to pass in Tennessee.

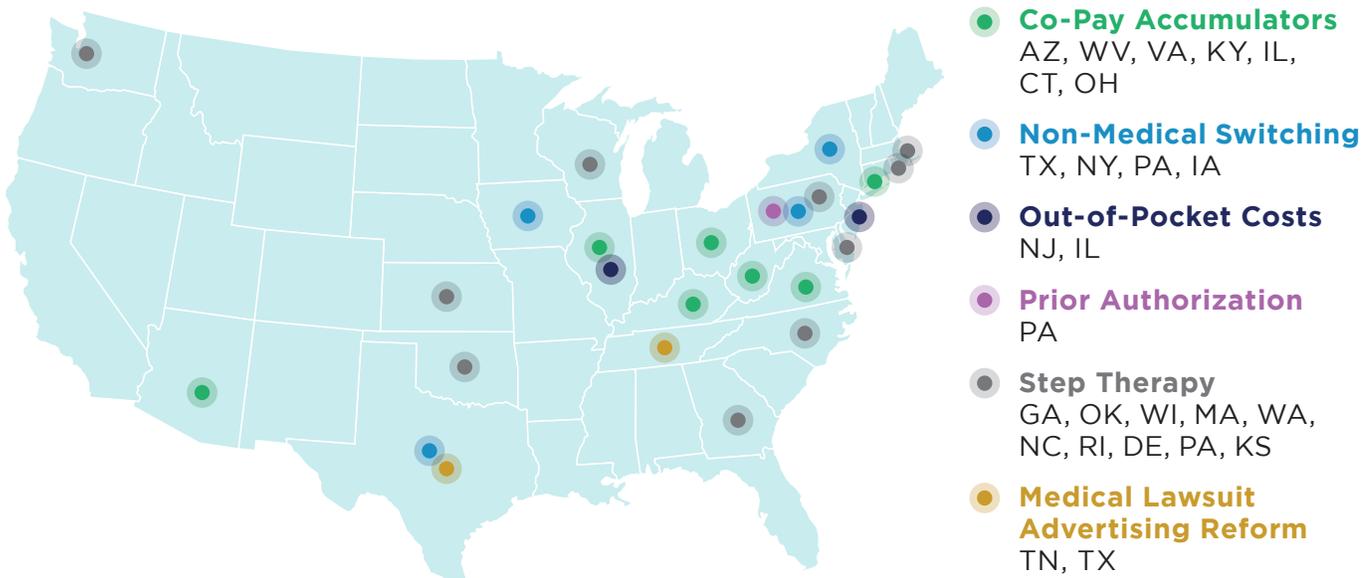
The Derma Care Access Network partnered with the Aimed Alliance to pilot a two-part webinar series for HR professionals to learn about the importance of robust health insurance coverage and fair workplace accommodations for employees with skin conditions.

The Patient Access Collaborative, which invites patient advocacy organizations to pool materials and share best practices, launched its monthly webinar series this year. Episodes have included a presentation of non-medical switching study data and an overview of co-pay accumulator adjustment programs.



STATE ADVOCACY

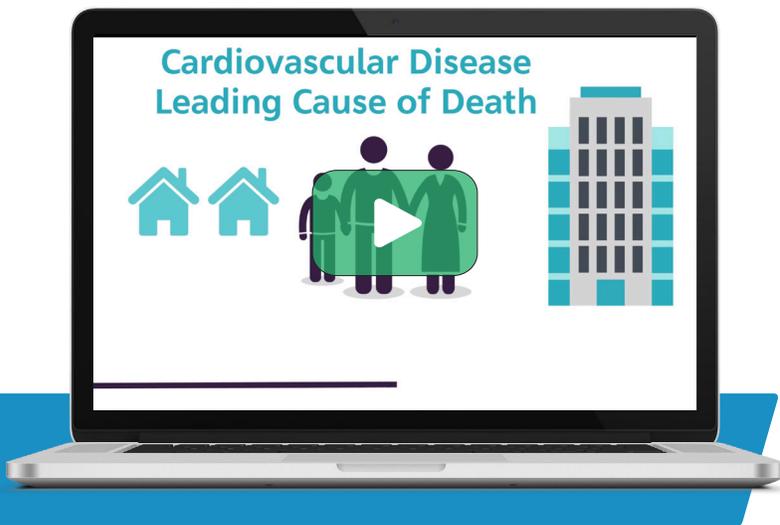
Through official comments, coalition membership, letterdesk projects and on-the-ground advocacy, AfPA has seen encouraging progress in 2019 on a number of patient access issues. The map below depicts states where AfPA has advocated this year.



GLOBAL HAPPENINGS

In 2019, the [Global Alliance for Patient Access](#), and its subdivision, the [European Alliance for Patient Access](#), have sponsored and produced programs in Nicosia, Cyprus; Delhi, India; Shanghai, China and Madrid, Spain.

Recent EAfPA materials explore cardiovascular health, with a “[Fast Facts](#)” and a motion graphics video on treatment access for patients with high cholesterol.



EAfPA also undertook a multi-country questionnaire to gauge how comfortable rheumatoid arthritis patients were in talking with their health care providers about symptoms, treatment challenges and quality-of-life issues. [The results](#) sparked the start of a new Patient Essentials [video series](#).



Meanwhile, GAfPA’s work in Latin America gave rise to a video, released in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#), on compulsory licensing.

GAfPA, AfPA and IfPA look forward to still more programming, advocacy and education efforts this year. A full review of the organizations’ work this year will be featured in the 2019 annual report.



AllianceforPatientAccess.org