

# **CLEARING HURDLES TO ACCESS RARE DISEASE THERAPIES**



Sponsored by BioMarin

This material was presented on 03/29/22; its continued accuracy, reliability, correctness, or completeness cannot not be assured after that date.

# What We'll Cover Today

- Medicaid Access to Treatments for Rare Conditions
- How to Get Involved



# MEDICAID ACCESS TO TREATMENTS FOR RARE CONDITIONS

**Ken Sprague**

Associate Director, Government Affairs  
BioMarin

## Rare Disease & Medicaid Landscape

- 48% of children with special healthcare needs and 45% of nonelderly adults with disabilities are covered by Medicaid.<sup>1</sup>
- Nearly two-thirds of Medicaid/CHIP-only children with special healthcare needs live in a household with income at or below 138% of the federal poverty level.<sup>2</sup>
- Medicaid enrollment has increased throughout the pandemic, which could influence trends in Medicaid's coverage of prescription medicines.<sup>3</sup>
- End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will have significant implications for Medicaid enrollment and spending. Millions of people could face administrative barriers during the process despite remaining eligible.<sup>4</sup>

1-2: Children with Special Health Care Needs: Coverage, Affordability, and HCBS Access. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2021. [www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/children-with-special-health-care-needs-coverage-affordability-and-hcbs-access/](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/children-with-special-health-care-needs-coverage-affordability-and-hcbs-access/). Accessed March 12, 2022.

3: Medicaid Outpatient Prescription Drug Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2021. [www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-outpatient-prescription-drug-trends-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-outpatient-prescription-drug-trends-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/). Accessed March 12, 2022.

4: The Impact of the COVID-19 Recession on Medicaid Coverage and Spending. Kaiser Family Foundation. 2022. [www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-recession-on-medicaid-coverage-and-spending/](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-recession-on-medicaid-coverage-and-spending/). Accessed March 12, 2022.

# Drug Spending & Budget Impact

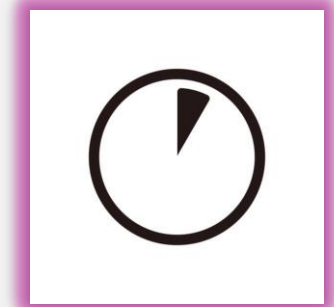
## Drug Spending

- Spending on prescription drugs increased between 1980 and 2006 (Congressional Budget Office).
- After 2006, the availability of generics and market competition drove down drug prices as an overall percentage of health care expenses, ***even while other health care costs continued to rise.***
- Drug spending has remained **relatively flat since 2015.**



## Budget Impact

- Rare disease/orphan therapies have increased in cost over time.
- Overall budget impact of rare disease treatments remains relatively small.



# Rare Disease Therapies

## Rare Disease Drugs

- Since the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act in 1983, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved 564 orphan products treating 838 rare diseases.<sup>1</sup>
- Only a few hundred of the 7,000 known rare diseases currently have an FDA-approved treatment.
- Approximately 90% of rare diseases still have no treatment available.



## Hurdles to Treatments

- 61% of patients have been denied or faced lengthy delays in accessing rare disease therapies that required pre-approval.<sup>2</sup>
- Denied referrals by insurers are an impediment to access to rare disease treatment(s).



1: BARRIERS TO RARE DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, CARE AND TREATMENT IN THE US: A 30-Year Comparative Analysis. NORD. 2020. [https://rarediseases.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NRD-2088-Barriers-30-Yr-Survey-Report\\_FNL-2.pdf](https://rarediseases.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NRD-2088-Barriers-30-Yr-Survey-Report_FNL-2.pdf). Accessed March 12, 2022.

2: BARRIERS TO RARE DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, CARE AND TREATMENT IN THE US: A 30-Year Comparative Analysis. NORD. 2020. [https://rarediseases.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NRD-2088-Barriers-30-Yr-Survey-Report\\_FNL-2.pdf](https://rarediseases.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NRD-2088-Barriers-30-Yr-Survey-Report_FNL-2.pdf). Accessed March 12, 2022.

# Challenges in Accessing Rare Disease Therapies

## ICER and Other Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

- State Medicaid agencies relying on the Institute for Clinical & Economic Review (ICER) analysis and reports to evaluate treatments.
- Disproportionate impact on rare disease patients/therapies because of the use of quality-adjusted life-year (QALY).
- Medicaid agencies (CA, MA) working directly with ICER or leveraging reports when developing coverage criteria.

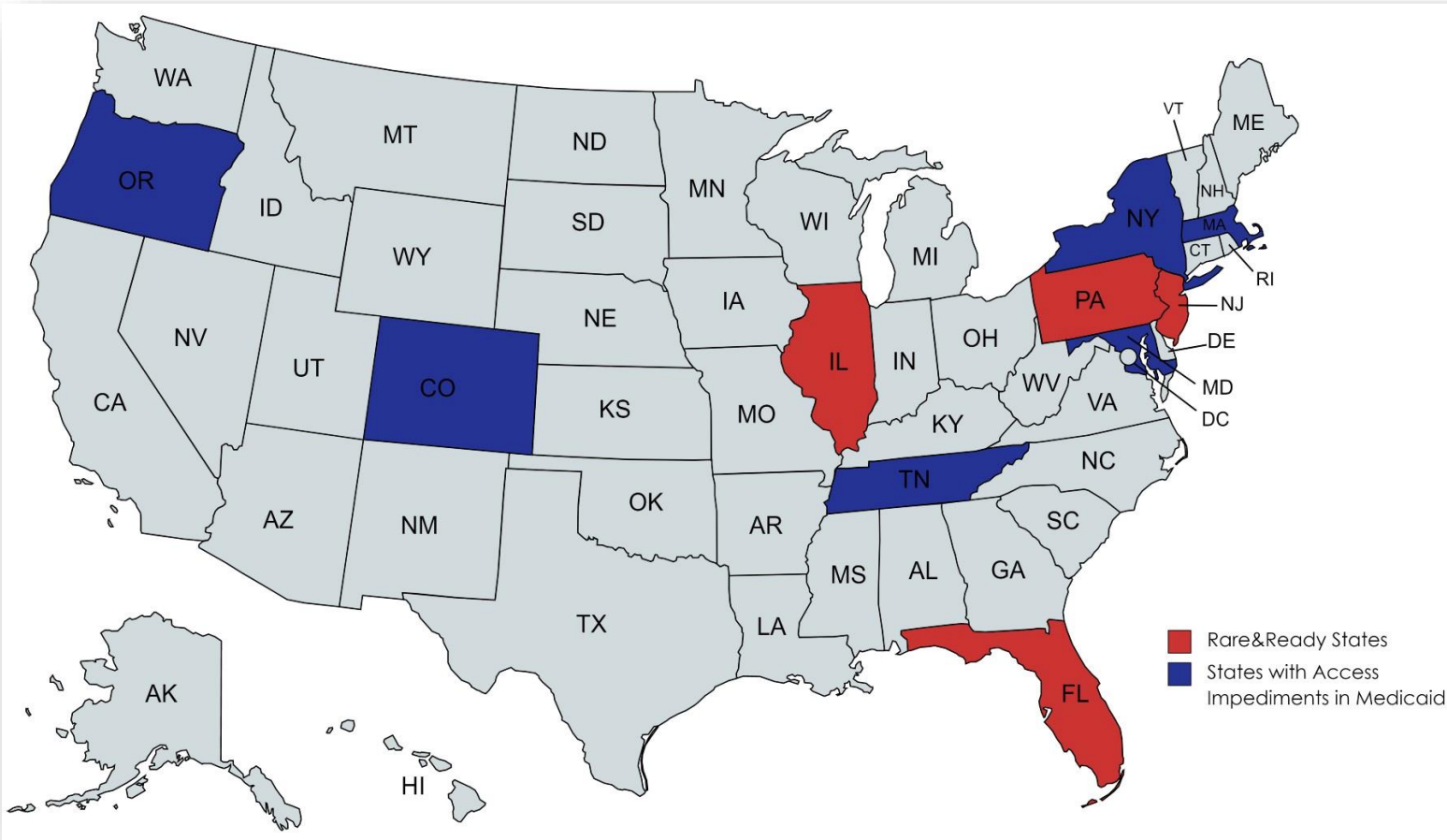
## State Medicaid Agencies Lack of Coverage

- State Medicaid agencies may use waivers (§1115 waivers) and other avenues to limit access to innovative therapies.
- Operating a commercial-style closed formulary or not covering accelerated approval drugs have become more commonplace.
- While some proposals (waivers) have not been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), more continue to “pop up.”

## Price Controls

- Price setting through prescription drug affordability boards (PDAB's) or reference pricing legislation is a common tactic used by state Medicaid agencies.
- Laws/proposed legislation allow states to limit reimbursement levels for certain innovative therapies.
- These laws are an existential threat to the incredible and innovative R&D pipeline for rare disease therapies.

# State-Specific Medicaid Challenges

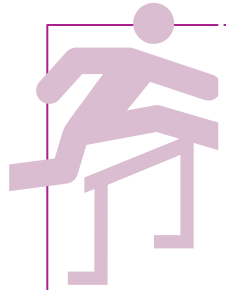


- Many states legislating and/or regulating changes to their Medicaid programs.
- States utilizing the following strategies:
  - *Waivers to seek permission to operate closed formularies/limit access to accelerated approval drugs (MA, OR, TN).*
  - *Pass legislation aimed at controlling the cost of prescription drugs (CO, MD, NY).*
- **Rare & Ready focusing on four states to mitigate access challenges:**
  - *Florida – Medicaid Managed Care plans are slow to promote coverage to newly approved therapies.*
  - *Illinois – Medicaid Fee for Service and Managed Care Organizations do not always maintain consistent coverage criteria.*
  - *New Jersey and Pennsylvania – continued scrutiny of rare disease therapies.*

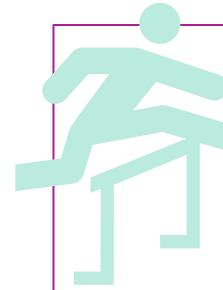


# Hurdles Impede Access to Treatments

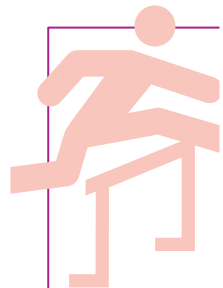
Several “operational hurdles” pose a threat to rare disease therapy access



Significant delays to meaningful coverage in Medicaid upon FDA-approval



Medicaid coverage criteria being more restrictive than the FDA-approved label



Discrepancies between managed care coverage criteria and fee-for-service

# “Time to Treat” Legislative Concept & Principles



**Mandated time frame for completion of clinical review and development/publishing of coverage criteria – *require Medicaid programs to complete/publish within 60 days of FDA approval (caveat for manual review included)***

**Rationale**

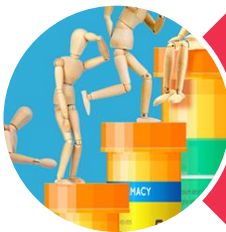
Prevents lengthy delays to development of coverage policies



**Coverage policy developed cannot be more restrictive than the indications and usage section of FDA-approved label**

**Rationale**

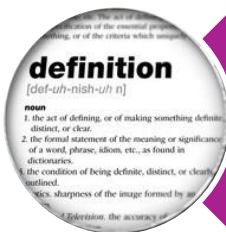
Prevents Medicaid/managed care organizations from developing coverage policy based on trial inclusion/exclusion criteria



**Easy exception process for step therapy if deemed medically necessary by provider – *creates a straightforward exceptions process - mandates response to request within 72 hours for request, 24 hours for emergency request***

**Rationale**

Helps mitigate some of the onerous utilization management strategies implemented by plans and Medicaid



**Defines “qualifying rare disease therapy” as rare pediatric therapy, orphan therapy, breakthrough designation or RMAT (Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy) designation**

**Rationale**

Limits scope of legislation to increase likelihood of passage

## Other Issue Areas to Prioritize for Advocacy

### Maintaining access to accelerated approval therapies in Medicaid

- States are scrutinizing therapies that are approved under FDA accelerated approval pathway.
- Attempting to limit coverage through waivers (MA, OR, TN).
- Educate policymakers and/or mitigate attempts to block access to these therapies.

### Promoting access to gene and cell therapies through outcomes-based arrangements/value-based arrangements

- State Medicaid programs concerned about cost of therapy and durability.
- Outcomes-based arrangements would allow manufacturers to “share in risk.”

### Maintain expanded access to telehealth

- Access to health care through telehealth increased during the height of the pandemic.
- Some states do not allow patients with rare conditions to use telehealth with experts who practice medicine in other states.
- States should adopt policies expediting licensure for out-of-state healthcare providers treating rare disorders with telehealth.

# QUESTIONS

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Kari Lato**

Sr. Director, Policy & Advocacy

Rx4good

# Why Advocacy Matters



Gives a voice to those most impacted by policy decisions.



Serves as a powerful tool for raising disease awareness and offering valuable insight into the patient and caregiver experience.



Messages delivered through storytelling are **22 times more memorable** than facts.<sup>1</sup>



Increases awareness to initiate changes that create better outcomes.

## Advocating for Change

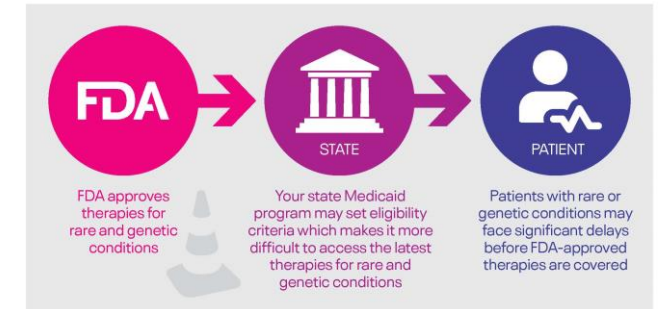
Simple ways you can advocate for policy change:

- ✓ Build awareness, change public perception and move people to action.
- ✓ Educate and engage policymakers and other stakeholders.
- ✓ Build a strong and diverse coalition to amplify your voice and impact.

# Rare & Ready: A Genetic Condition Coalition



A GENETIC CONDITION COALITION



## Living with a rare or genetic condition?

Many state policymakers are just beginning to recognize the the impact of rare and genetic conditions on patients, caregivers, and the healthcare system — this coalition will bridge the gap.



Patients with rare or genetic conditions **deserve access to FDA-approved therapies** as soon as they are available.

You understand the challenges patients face when accessing newly approved therapies for rare and genetic conditions. **Tell your story.**

Policy changes happen when there is a **UNITED front.**

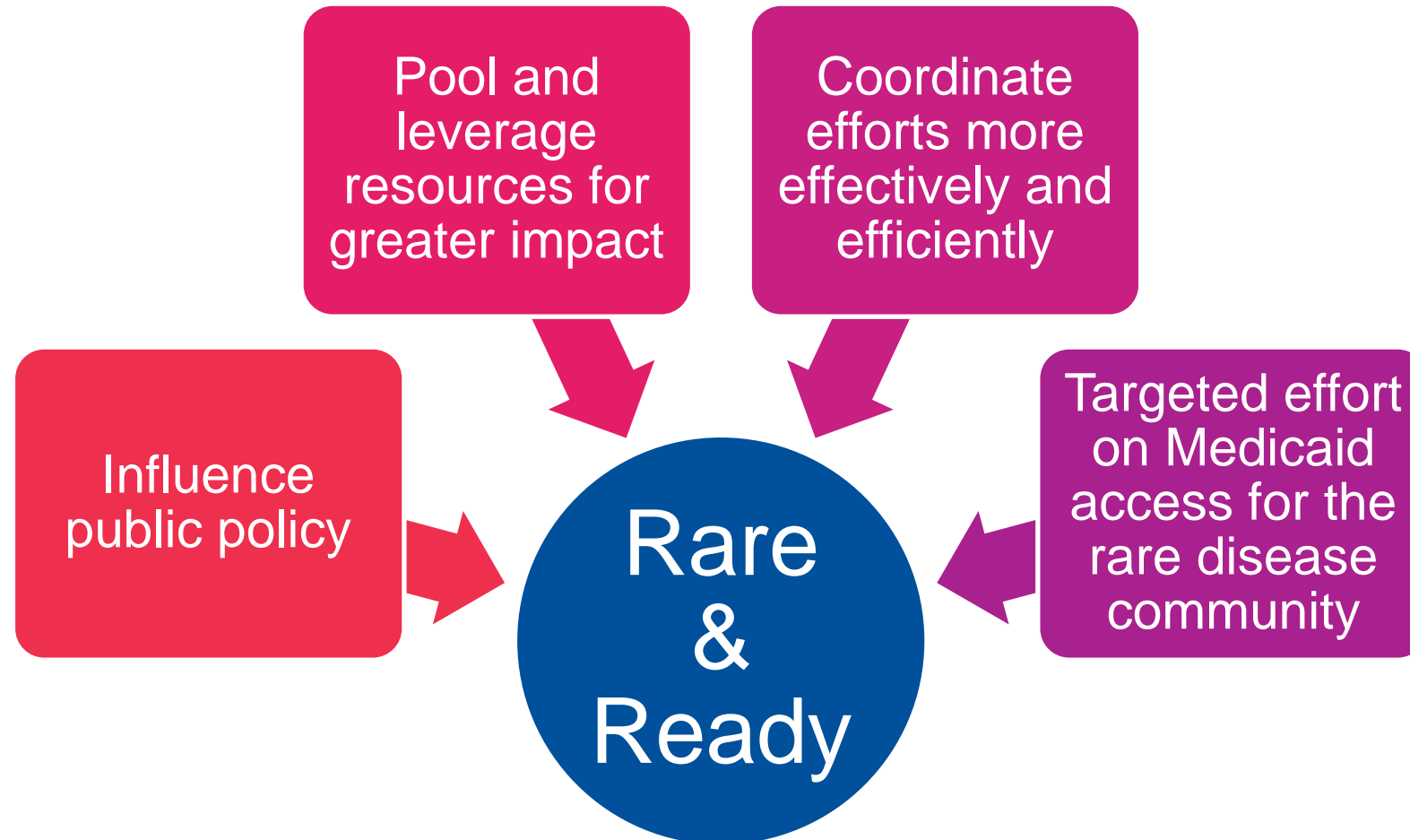
**JOIN**  
Rare & Ready TODAY!



Supported by BioMarin



## Power of a Coalition

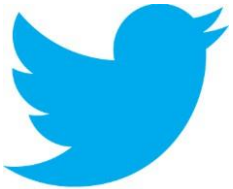


## Effective Ways to Advocate

- Join the Rare & Ready Coalition!
- Encourage others to join the coalition. The more voices – the bigger the impact.
- Meet with decision-makers to share your rare disease experience. Explain the impact of their policy decisions on your community.
- Write an op-ed or letter to the editor.
- Use social media to educate and bring awareness to the issue – make sure to tag and include relevant hashtags.
- Submit comments or feedback on policies and regulations.



# Power of Social Media



#Hashtag your way into the conversation

- Keep up with legislative movements
- Follow @rare\_ready – share tweets



Use Facebook Groups to spread the word

- Share messages from the Rare & Ready Coalition
- Share responses from elected officials



Let pictures/videos tell the story

- Instagram can paint a picture that emails can't
- Use videos to tell your rare disease experience



## How You Can Help

### Join the Coalition

- Contact [kari.lato@rx4good.com](mailto:kari.lato@rx4good.com) to join
- Ask others to join

### Share Your Experience

- Tell your story
- Meet with decision-makers

### Use Social Media

- Follow @rare\_ready
- Repost on your social media channels

## Policy Changes Don't Happen Quickly

A large blue five-pointed star with a white outline.

In it for the  
long haul -  
change  
requires  
perseverance

A large orange five-pointed star with a white outline.

Remind  
yourself why  
this is  
important

A large purple five-pointed star with a white outline.

Celebrate the  
victories

# THANK YOU

---

