

PAF Patient Advocate Foundation

Solving Insurance and Healthcare Access Problems | since 1996

Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 direct patient services organization that seeks to safeguard patients with chronic, life threatening, and/or debilitating diseases through effective mediation assuring access to care, maintenance of employment and preservation of their financial stability. Patient Advocate Foundation serves as an active liaison between the patient and their insurer, employer and/or creditors to resolve insurance, job retention, and/or debt crisis matters relative to their diagnosis through professional case managers and a national network of health care attorneys. PAF case managers are specialized in the areas of oncology nursing, coding and billing, pre-authorization approvals, expedited appeals, expedited application for federal and state income and disability programs.

PAF's direct case management services result in benefits which include:

- Increasing the speed with which patients receive quality healthcare after diagnosis.
- Providing services which include mediating and negotiating with the full continuum of social services including SSI/SSDI, Medicare and Medicaid, federal and state programs and private sector resources to provide needed services in a timely coordinated process. To mediate and negotiate to the full network of healthcare providers including physicians, hospitals, clinics, social services providers, pharmaceutical assistance programs, federal, state and local agencies for specific goods and services needed by the patient.
- Screening for clinical trials enrollment and facilitate referrals when appropriate.
- Increasing patient survivability by promoting sustained access to healthcare services throughout the disease progression and treatment regimens.
- Providing direct intervention with employers, benefit representatives and health plan representatives for those patients who are employed, insured or underinsured.

In 2007, thirty-seven percent (37%) of the patients served by PAF were male and 78% of the total number of patients served had a cancer diagnosis. Of that number, 6.21% had a diagnosis of prostate cancer. PAF has experienced an increase over the past several years in the number of male patients served, primarily as a direct result of PAF opening its Co-Pay Relief (CPR) program in 2004. One of the original disease categories that provides cash co-payment assistance to patients who qualify medically and financially was a prostate cancer silo.

In FY 07/08, PAF neared completion of its final year of a five year cooperative agreement with the, **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**, a program with the goal of increasing **Early Detection and Survivorship of Cancer in the Underserved Populations (SCUP)**. This program has served 5,003 patients in FY 07/08, serving, on average, 419 patients monthly and targets disparate populations who are facing access to care issues. Since 2003, PAF has provided SCUP services to over 13,000 patients. As a component of the program, patients were screened for clinical trials and information was provided to 1,534 patients with 29 patients enrolling in a clinical trial. PAF has provided over 23,000 educational publications related to the diagnoses covered under this grant. Additionally, Michelle Shanks, SCUP Program Director, has joined the Iowa Consortium for Comprehensive Cancer Control to provide information and resources to this area of the United States and assist in collaborative efforts of other National Organizations within the Iowa CCC Branch. PAF received notification on 8/29/08 that it had been awarded a 5 year competitive bid grant from the CDC to continue this program.

Patient Advocate Foundation has worked diligently over its almost thirteen history to ensure that patients who were facing insurance and healthcare access problems have those barriers removed so they can concentrate on becoming well. PAF provides these services to all patients who have been diagnosed with a chronic, life-threatening or debilitating disease at no cost to the patient.