



Solutions for Savings: Market-Based Policies to Tackle Drug Affordability

Speaker Biographies



Nicole Braccio, PharmD
Director of Policy, National Patient Advocate Foundation

Nicole Braccio is the policy director at National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) representing people in the pursuit of health care. A practicing pharmacist, Nicole is passionate about working directly with patients to address their health needs.

Since joining NPAF, Nicole has overseen the development of person-centered policies that promote equitable access to affordable, quality care. Working with the patient service data from the case management program generated by NPAF's sister organization, Patient Advocate Foundation, Nicole identifies opportunities to educate lawmakers on the everyday issues confronted by real patients and their families.

Prior to her role at NPAF, Nicole assisted clients in the reimbursement practice at Avalere Health, with coverage and payment policy developments. She primarily focused on access to innovative treatments in public and private insurance markets.

Nicole serves as Chair for the DC Society of Health Policy Young Professionals, a non-profit organization connecting young professionals to networking, career and educational opportunities. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers University and is a registered pharmacist in New York.



Perry Lewis
Vice President of Industry Relations, CoverMyMeds

Perry Lewis is VP of Industry Relations for CoverMyMeds, with a focus on pharmacy association engagement and leading advocacy efforts in both the state and federal arena pertaining to electronic prior authorization (ePA).

Perry has spent more than 30 years successfully managing relationships in the PBM and independent and chain pharmacy environment supporting community pharmacy initiatives, initiating strategy for network development and product management.

He is actively involved in state and federal health care advocacy roles. He previously worked for McKesson AccessHealth as AVP PBM Relations contracting and supporting development of networks for independent chains.



Julie Cantor-Weinberg, MPP
Principal Advisor for Federal Government Affairs, Prime Therapeutics

Julie Cantor-Weinberg, MPP is the Principal Advisor for Federal Government Affairs at Prime Therapeutics, a pharmacy benefits manager for health plans, employers, and government programs including Medicare and Medicaid – altogether serving more than 28 million people. Prime is owned by 18 Blue Cross Blue Shield plans.

Previously, Julie served in senior positions in government affairs at two different national medical specialty societies. She managed various committees and workgroups and represented the societies before various U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies, the Congress, and in coalitions. She drafted regulatory comments and testimonies and articles for various society websites and publications.

Prior to her medical society work, Ms. Cantor-Weinberg spent nine years in government affairs in the medical device industry in positions of increasing responsibility at Fortune 500 cardiovascular manufacturer. Earlier, Ms. Cantor-Weinberg served as Associate Director for Employee Benefits Policy at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association. There, she was often quoted in the national media and trade press.

Ms. Cantor-Weinberg began her career as an analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. At GAO, she wrote testimonies and reports on a wide range of health policy issues at the request of various Congressional committees.

Ms. Cantor-Weinberg earned a masters degree in public policy from the University of Michigan and is a magna cum laude graduate of Yale University. She has completed recent coursework in leadership, legislative drafting and association management.



Joel White
President, Council for Affordable Health Coverage

Joel White is the President of the Council for Affordable Health Coverage, a role he has held since 2008. Previously, he spent twelve years on Capitol Hill as professional staff, where he helped enact nine laws, including the 2002 *Trade Act*, which created health care tax credits, the 2003 law that established the Medicare prescription drug benefit and Health Savings Accounts, the 2005 *Deficit Reduction Act* and the 2006 *Tax Reform and Health Care Act*, which reformed Medicare payment policies.

Joel spent six years as staff on the Committee on Ways and Means, first as Professional Staff and then as Staff Director of the Health Subcommittee.

Joel is on the Boards of Directors of CAHC, the Newborn Foundation, Samaritan Inns, Arlington Bridge Builders, and the Citizen and Soldier Foundation. He is also on the National Advisory Board of the Cancer Support Community. Joel holds a B.S. in Economics from the American University and is the co-author of the book, *Facts and Figures on Government Finance*.