

Kashyap Patel, M.D. Speaks at Senate CAHC IPI Congressional Staff Briefing



On April 17th and 26th, ION Solutions member Kashyap Patel, M.D. with Carolina Blood and Cancer Care participated in congressional staff briefings facilitated by the Council for Affordable Health Coverage (CAHC) in Washington, D.C. highlighting concerns with the Trump administration's proposed International Pricing Index (IPI) model for Medicare Part B drugs.

Dr. Patel acknowledged the need for policymakers to address prescription drug pricing but urged congressional staff in attendance not to embrace policies that could disrupt patient care. He offered an extremely valuable perspective at the briefing, articulating how IPI would affect his independent, community-based oncology practice and the patients he treats daily if implemented.

Dr. Patel raised his concerns that the IPI model would create operational interferences in day to day functioning of his patient care. Specifically, he cited challenges maintaining separate inventories for all patients and his concern that the model would exacerbate the closure of rural practices, resulting in patients being forced to receive care in costlier health system settings. Dr. Patel also mentioned that since each patient's medicine would arrive in a pre-mixed dose, if a patient is unable to receive treatment due to low blood counts or any other side effects, which typically happens 1/10 times in cancer clinics, this proposal will likely increase wastage.

Other briefing panelists touted the Medicare Part B program as efficient compared to other federal health programs, noting that – contrary to popular belief – payment amounts for the top 50 Part B drugs decreased in the last recorded year.

AmerisourceBergen and ION Solutions are fortunate to have customers like Dr. Patel share their real-world perspectives on how drug pricing policies will affect patient-centric community-based care, and we will continue to remind policymakers to strongly consider these implications before enacting harmful policies.