



Adverse Drug Tiering Practices in the United States

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GET TESTED
GET PROTECTED

**OVER 2 MILLION
AMERICANS
ARE LIVING
WITH
HEPATITIS B**

www.hepbunited.org



Hepatitis B in the U.S.

- Disproportionately impacts Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and African Immigrants
- Asian Americans make up 50% of chronic infections in the U.S.
- Medications need to be taken daily.
 - Stopping suddenly or taking sporadically can cause the virus to flare and increase risk of liver disease or liver cancer
- If untreated, 1 in 4 will suffer from liver disease or liver cancer

The Issue



WHO ARE WE HEARING FROM?

- Nurses
- Family Members
- Patients
- Parents (children)
- Retirees

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

- 4,000 deductibles before cost-sharing
- \$1,200/month copays
- \$478/month for generic entevacir
- \$2,400/month

ADVERSE DRUG TIERING

Unfair ways for insurance companies to place the cost of medications onto the consumer

Key Takeaways:

- Illegal
- Discriminatory
- Typically done through hidden benefit plan designs



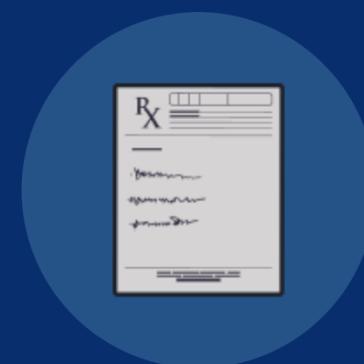
Examples of Adverse Drug Tiering



Coinsurance Rates



Generic Treatments
with High Cost-Shares



Mandatory Physician's
Approval for First-Line
or Generics



Placing Most or All
Hepatitis B Treatments
on a High Tier

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- 1) *Americans with Disabilities Act - 2013*
- 2) *Affordable Care Act - 2010*



ESSENTIAL HEALTH
BENEFITS
(SECTION 1557)



NO DISCRIMINATORY PLAN
DESIGN
BY INSURANCE
COMPANIES

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Federal law states that it is illegal for companies to include a benefit design in their insurance plan that discriminates against individuals based upon age, race, disability, gender, health condition, and other factors

Insurance Definitions

COST-SHARING

Sharing the cost of treatment with your insurance company

COINSURANCE

Percentage of the cost of a medication that the consumer must pay

ex. 30% coinsurance of \$830 is \$249 a month (entecavir)

COPAY

Set rate you pay for a medication no matter the cost

ex. \$15 copay for a generic drug

Drug Definitions

BRAND NAME

FDA-approved and receives the first patent for its creation

GENERIC

Created to be the same as a brand-name drug in strength performance, and quality

FIRST-LINE TREATMENT

Preferred by both doctor and consumer for effectiveness & lack of side-effects

OUR METHODOLOGY

Based upon a similar analysis & successful policy actions that were taken by the AIDS Institute & the National Health Law Program in 2014

POLICY-ISH

Complaint Says Insurance Plans Discriminate Against HIV Patients

July 8, 2014 · 11:04 AM ET

MICHELLE ANDREWS



HIV/AIDS drugs like AZT are lifesavers for many people. But insurers' policies on paying for the drugs vary widely.

Wit & Daní McInyre/Science Source

State Analysis

Independence Blue Cross

Offers coverage in 5/67 counties

[Benefits/ Formulary](#)

Keystone HMO Silver Proactive

RX Benefit Design	Tier	Cost-Sharing	HBV Rx Replacement	Rx Coverage Restrictions
5 Tier Formulary In-network Deductibles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1: \$0 individual • Tier 2 & 3: \$6,000 per individual • Tier 1: \$0 family • Tiers 2 & 3: \$12,000 per family • Applies to RX on Tiers 1,2,3,4, 5 	T1 Low cost Generic	\$20 Copay		Rx Not Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baraclude • Viread 300mg tablet^{MF} • Vemlidy^{MF} • Hepsera^{MF} • Tyzeka • Eпивir Tablets^{MF} Pharmacy Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rx not covered out-of-network; 30% reimbursement for Tiers 1,2,3,4 • Up to 30-day supply for retail • 90-day supply for mail order at 2x cost-sharing • Mandatory generic required for all tiers.
	T2 Generic Brands	\$20 Copay	• TDF	
	T3 Preferred Brands	50% Coinsurance; \$400 max/fill	• Viread (100 mg-250 mg)	
	T4 Non-Preferred Brands	50% Coinsurance; \$500 max/fill		
	T5 Specialty	50% Coinsurance; \$700 max/fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entecavir • lamivudine • adefovir dipivoxil • Pegasys • Eпивir Oral Solution 	

Generics on high tiers

Examined Based On....

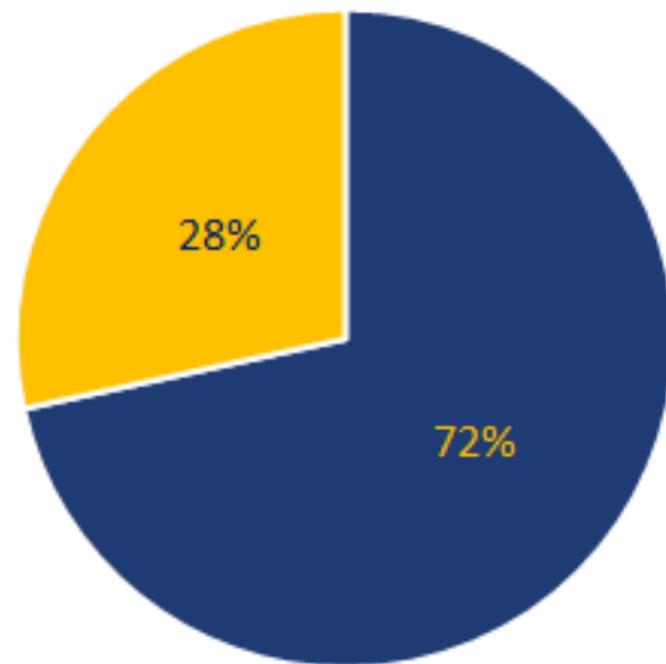
- Federal Exchange
- FDA Approved Treatments
- Silver Level Plans

The Treatments

Brand-name	Generic
 Viread (antiviral)	TDF
 Vemlidy (antiviral)	<i>No generic exists</i>
 Baraclude (antiviral)	entecavir
Epivir-HBV (antiviral)	lamivudine
Hepsera (antiviral)	adefovir dipivoxil
Tyzeka (antiviral)	<i>Generic not offered by any plan</i>
Pegasys (interferon)	<i>Generic not offered by any plan</i>
Intron A (interferon)	<i>Generic not offered by any plan</i>

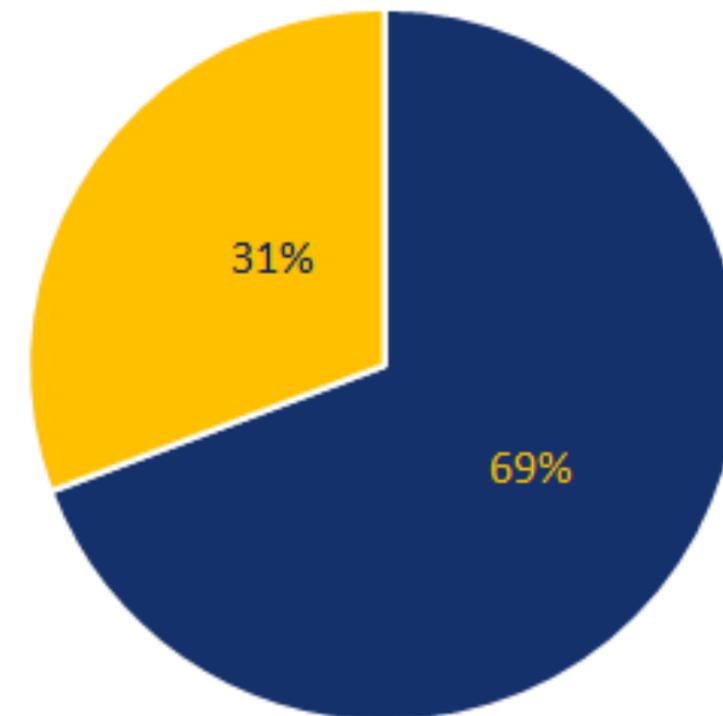
Breakdown

14 states, 81 Insurance Companies, 205 Plans



■ High Tier ■ Low Tier

**HBV GENERIC DRUG
PLACEMENT BY
INSURANCE COMPANY**



■ Yes ■ No

**INSURANCE PLANS WITH
COINSURANCE COST-
SHARES ON THE HIGHEST
TIERS**

State	# of Companies with Generics on a High Tier	Total # of Companies in the State
Arizona	4	5
California	8	11
Delaware	1	1
Florida	5	7
Georgia	4	4
Hawaii	1	2
Illinois	2	5
Minnesota	3	5
New Jersey	1	3
New York	9	12
Pennsylvania	5	6
Texas	6	8
Virginia	7	7
Washington	2	6
TOTAL	58	81

State Comparison

Companies with one or more generics on a high tier

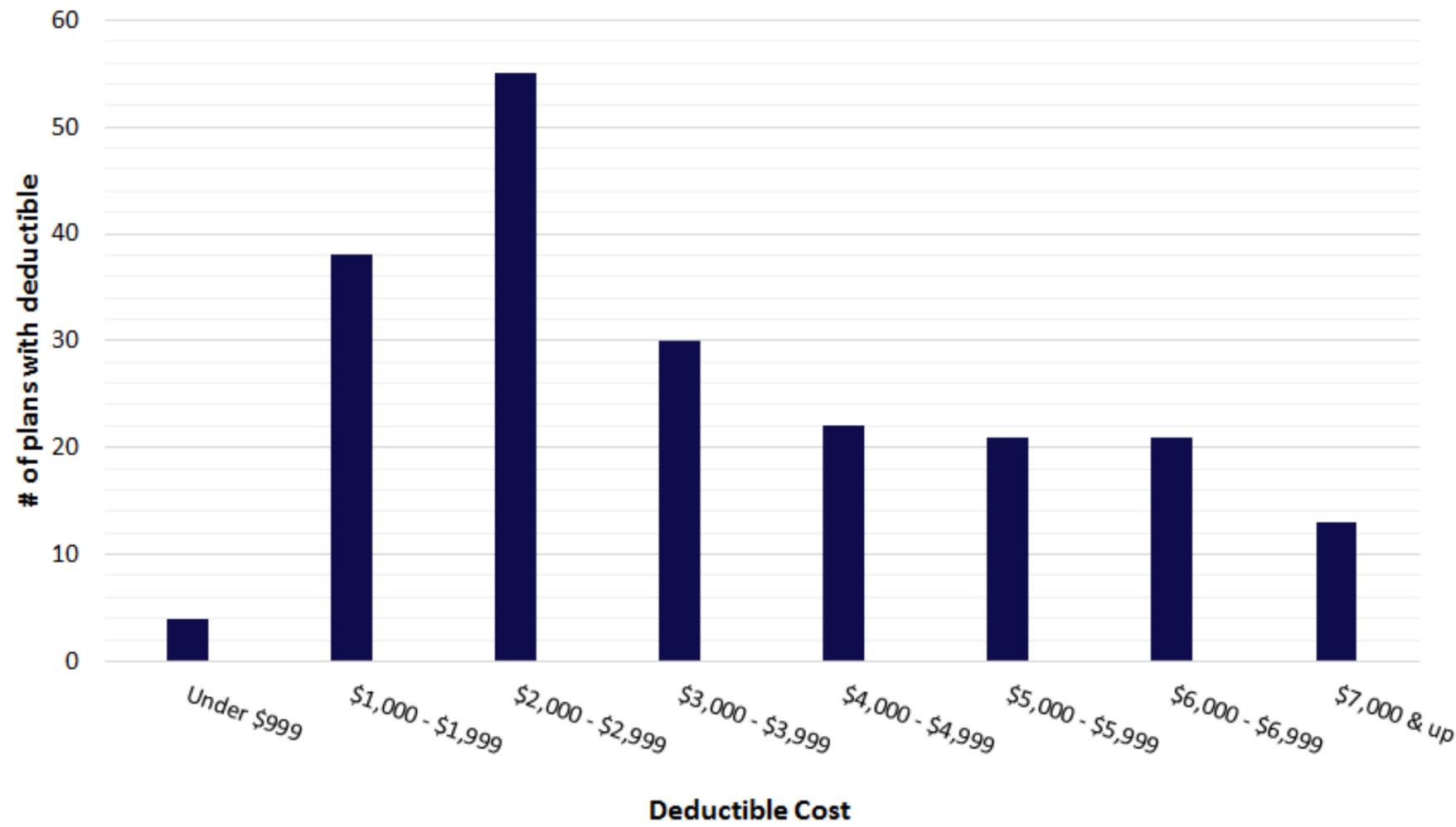
State	# of plans with Coinsurance Rates on the highest tiers	Total # of Plans Analyzed
Arizona	4	5
California	11	11
Delaware	3	3
Florida	6	7
Georgia	4	4
Hawaii	3	3
Illinois	30	34
Minnesota	8	8
New Jersey	11	11
New York	12	64
Pennsylvania	13	14
Texas	11	11
Virginia	20	22
Washington	6	8
TOTAL:	142	205

State Comparison

Plans with coinsurance rates on the high tiers

Deductible Findings

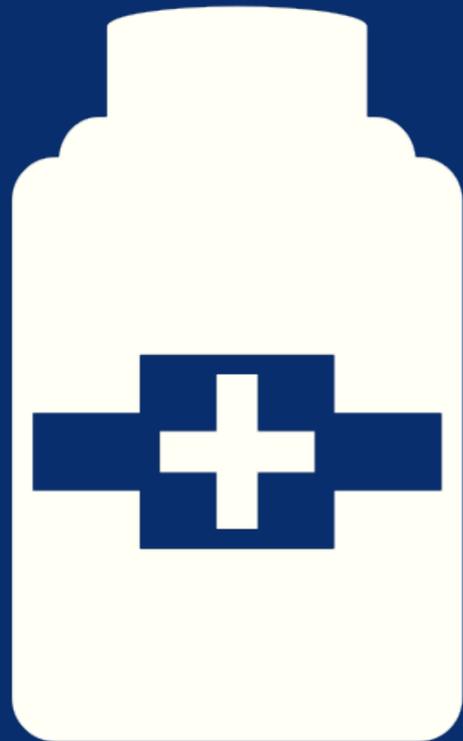
Cost for Individual Deductible by Plan



52%

Of plans had a deductible over \$3,000

Findings



General trend of requiring deductibles to be met before cost-sharing began for highest tiers

Copays for lower tiers, coinsurance for higher tiers

Benchmark plan standards were not met by the majority of plans

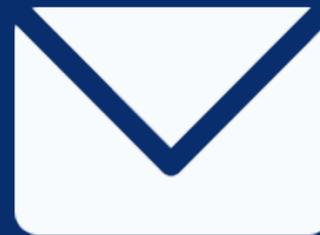
Drug doses/forms for the same treatment varied greatly

Other Common Barriers to Access

PRIOR
AUTHORIZATION



NO MAIL
ORDER
OPTIONS



HIGHER COSTS
FOR MAIL
ORDERS



TREATMENT RESOURCES

VEMLIDY (TENOFIVIR ALADENAMIDE)

www.vemlidy.com

BARACLUDE (ENTECAVIR)

www.baraclude.bmscustomerconnect.com

ALL MEDICATIONS

www.rxoutreach.org
www.prescriptionhope.com
www.copays.org/disease/hepatitis-b
www.goodrx.org
www.needymeds.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.hepb.org
www.pparx.org
www.panfoundation.org
www.healthwellfoundation.org
www.mygooddays.org

Conclusions

- Despite the ACA, adverse drug tiering is occurring in multiple states
- No federal definition for a specialty drug - decided by states & insurance carriers
- Medications need to be taken daily
- Insurance companies can change formularies throughout the year
- **It is extremely important for hepatitis B medications to be both affordable and accessible**

Thank you!

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