



2019 Advocates for Responsible Care Priorities

Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC) is a non-profit organization that functions as an alliance of health care professionals, patient advocates, and human rights specialists to advance ARxC's mission to reduce cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity. We offer services to inform the public, mobilize support, and implement strategies to address the inequitable delivery of health care services in Georgia.

For the last decade, ARxC has been working to educate, engage and advocate for timely, affordable access to comprehensive, quality health care services and prescription drugs and treatments.

ARxC's 2019 priorities advance our work to improve access to innovative care and prescription drugs that yield the benefits of improved physical, social and mental health. These priorities include the following:

1. Pass Step Therapy legislation in partnership with the [Rx In Reach Georgia Coalition](#); this entails:
 - a. Redesigning the Rx in Reach Georgia website and social media platforms
 - b. Developing educational materials and social media toolkits to educate and engage patients, patient family members, and others affected by step therapy
 - c. Collecting and developing patient testimonials and stories
 - d. Pitching and securing patient stories through the print press and media
 - e. Hosting advocacy trainings
 - f. Retaining and recruit and Coalition members
 - g. Organizing and manage conferences with Coalition members
 - h. Promoting Coalition events and activities
2. Increase prescription cost-sharing transparency by raising awareness about and mobilizing action to eliminate cost barriers to care by:
 - a. Informing the public of the latest actions taken to restrict access to care and jeopardizing the patient-provider relationship
 - b. Building a registry of patient access stories
 - c. Leading advocacy trainings
 - d. Limiting prior authorization restrictions
 - e. Engaging policymakers, community leaders and other like-minded organizations and coalitions on patient access issues in solutions
 - f. Representing and/or including stakeholders at Patient Access events
 - g. Promoting Medicare Open Enrollment and Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment
3. Support policy actions at the state and federal levels to optimize the quality and affordability of care available to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries by:
 - a. Staying informed on policy developments at the state and federal levels
 - b. Signing on to collaborative efforts to maintain and enforce minimum coverage requirements set by the Affordable Care Act

- c. Advocating, in partnership with the [Cover Georgia Coalition](#), for the expansion of Medicaid in Georgia
 - d. Supporting the Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians (ASP) Coalition in protecting access to Medicare Part B
4. Provide input on the proposed rule blueprint (American Health Care Act) to uphold the Patient's Bill of Rights and maintain patient protections
5. Build health equity and increase healthcare access in rural settings by:
 - a. Upholding the Coalition of Human Needs ["SAVE" Principles](#) policy initiative
 - b. Informing development of malnutrition quality measures used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for older adults
 - c. Continuing development of the Community Action Care Plan © - Dialysis Crisis of Care, a replicable approach to secure specialty care for an individual or community of uninsured patients in a crisis of care
6. Lead the [Georgia Coalition for Safe Communities](#) (GCSC) to inform, educate, and mobilize communities and individuals on actions and practices to advance common sense policies that prevent gun-related violence
 - a. Convening the GCSC Steering Committee to shape legislative priorities
 - b. Synthesizing information to inform the Georgia public on the impact of gun violence, the evidence-based strategies to improve the safety of our communities, and the opportunity for their engagement in the GCSC
 - c. Advocating for continued research to better understand the overall patterns of gun violence, how our communities are affected by it and who is the most at risk.
 - d. Networking with and securing multi-disciplinary partners to advance the reach of GCSC messages

ARxC's role in convening and leading partners at the community, state, and federal level, is critical to the success of achieving these advocacy priorities.

With our partners and sponsors we have developed a Coordinated Access Issue Campaign to certain level sponsors to have targeted posts from partners shared on ARxC website(s) and social media platforms. Steady participation on our website(s) and our social media platforms brings awareness, information connectedness and the quickest response from followers and the public on critical patient access issues. It also helps disseminate consumer friendly information people need to understand innovation and available treatments.

Initiatives

ARxC is involved in the following state and national patient health care related policy initiatives and coalitions.

- Access for Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Coalition for Non-Citizens
- [Coalition of Human Needs](#) 'SAVE' Principles Policy Initiative
- Community Action Care Plan©-Dialysis Crisis of Care
- [Cover Georgia Coalition](#)
- Empowering the Patient Series

- [Georgia Coalition for Safe Communities](#) -  
- Health Disparity and Health Equity Initiative
- HHS/CMS Proposed Rule Blueprint Input
- [“I AM Essential” Coalition](#)
- [Part B Access for Seniors and Physicians \(ASP\) Coalition](#)
- [Partnership for Part D Access](#)
- [Rx in Reach Georgia Coalition](#) -  

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