ASCO Applauds New Report on Making Medicines Affordable

Statement by ASCO President Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
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“A report released today by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine underscores the imperative our nation faces to address the affordability of drugs for medical conditions that have long-been deemed untreatable. Nowhere is this imperative more urgent than with the new generation of cancer drugs that is giving hope to the millions of Americans who face a cancer diagnosis each year—while creating formidable barriers to access due to the high cost of these agents.

“ASCO’s recent national opinion survey found that of those Americans who have either had cancer themselves or who've had an immediate family member with cancer, more than a quarter of these patients (27%) have taken actions to reduce treatment costs, including skipping doctor appointments, refusing treatment, not filling prescriptions and cutting pills in
half. Such steps to reduce treatment costs not only potentially risk an individual's health, but also a person's life.

"ASCO is committed to supporting and promoting practical policy solutions that ensure patients with cancer have access to—and can afford—drugs vital to the treatment of their disease. In our recently published Position Statement on Addressing the Affordability of Cancer Drugs, we propose a number of approaches that may help rein in drug costs without jeopardizing innovation or access to care.

"We applaud the National Academies for bringing this landmark report forward and remain dedicated to working with our nation's policymakers to address this pressing issue."

Read the full report.

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**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world's leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at [www.ASCO.org](http://www.ASCO.org), explore patient education resources at [www.Cancer.Net](http://www.Cancer.Net), and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.