

# OPIOIDS AND CANCER PAIN: PATIENT NEEDS AND ACCESS CHALLENGES

In 2016, ASCO issued a policy statement on the need to balance public health concerns about opioid abuse with ensuring access to opioids as a component of appropriate pain management for patients and survivors of cancer. Recent evidence suggests that access challenges are growing.

## OPIOIDS ARE FREQUENTLY NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE CANCER PAIN.

### 8 OUT OF 10



patients with advanced cancer have moderate to severe pain<sup>1</sup>

### EXPERIENCE CHRONIC CANCER-RELATED PAIN<sup>2</sup>

Patients

55%

Survivors

40%



### USE OPIOIDS TO MANAGE THEIR PAIN<sup>3</sup>

Patients

43%

Survivors

10%

## IN THE WAKE OF POLICIES INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS, IT HAS BECOME HARDER FOR CANCER PATIENTS TO ACCESS THE PAIN TREATMENT THEY NEED.

### 40%

of U.S. oncology practices\* say their patients had trouble filling opioid prescriptions. Barriers included:<sup>4</sup>

69% PRIOR AUTHORIZATION AND/OR PRECERTIFICATION REQUIRED

61% LIMITS ON NUMBER OF PILLS PER PRESCRIPTION

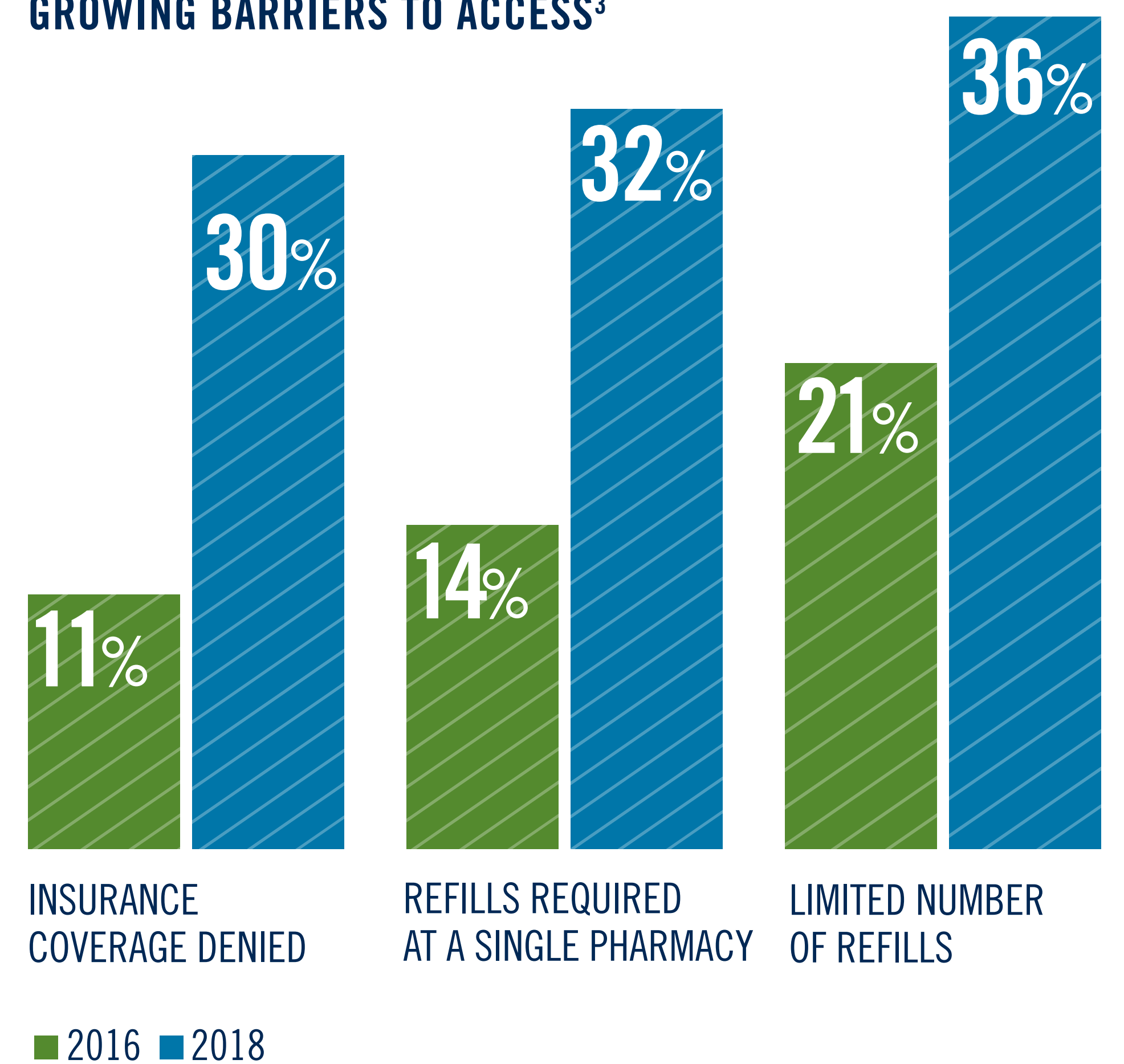
44% CAPS ON MAXIMUM DOSAGE

37% MEDICATION UNAVAILABLE AT LOCAL PHARMACY

34% PATIENTS OFTEN NEED HARD COPY OF PRESCRIPTION

28% INABILITY TO E-PRESCRIBE THESE DRUGS IN SOME STATES

### GROWING BARRIERS TO ACCESS<sup>3</sup>



## PATIENTS WITH CANCER NEED ACCESS TO OPIOIDS THAT IS NOT UNDULY RESTRICTED.

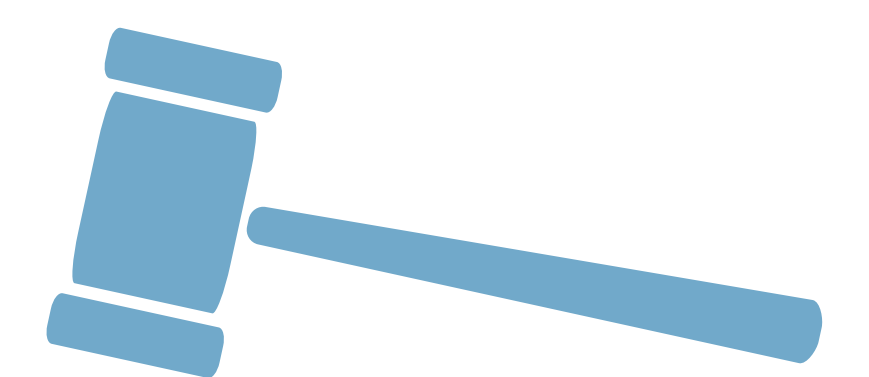
### 92%

of U.S. oncology practices are concerned that **restrictions on opioid prescribing** will result in **undertreating cancer pain**<sup>4</sup>



### 73%

of Americans say new opioid regulations should **not** apply to cancer patients<sup>5</sup>



## ASCO IS WORKING WITH LAWMAKERS TO ENSURE THAT ANY NEW POLICIES WILL PRESERVE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL PAIN MEDICATIONS FOR PATIENTS WITH CANCER.

\*n=340 Practices

**SOURCES:**  
1. NCI. Cancer Pain (PDQ®)—Health Professional Version. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/side-effects/pain/pain-hp-pdq>. Accessed on October 16, 2018.  
2. van den Beuken-van Everdingen M, Hochstenbach L, Joosten E, et al: Update on Prevalence of Pain in Patients With Cancer: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 51:1070-1090., 2016  
3. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and the Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC). Key Findings Summary: Opioid Access Research Project. June 2018. Accessed October 16, 2018. 4. American Society of Clinical Oncology. 2017 Oncology Practice Census. 5. American Society of Clinical Oncology. 2018 National Cancer Opinion Survey.