

Virtual Advocacy Day Webinar

*National Organization of Rheumatology
Management*

*Virtual Advocacy Day
June 13, 2024*

Logistics & Meeting Tips

National Organization of Rheumatology Management

Virtual Advocacy Day

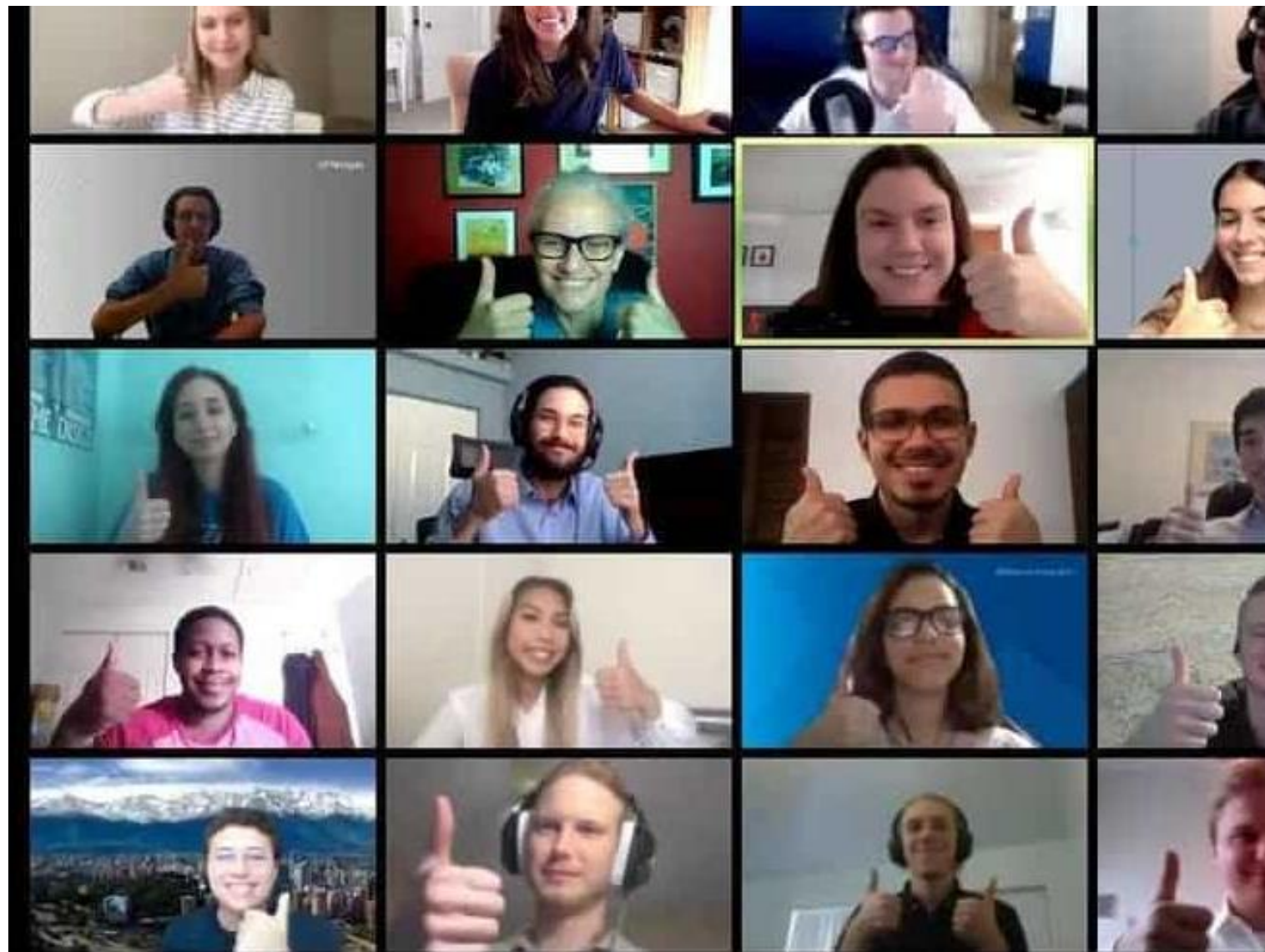
June 13, 2024

Presented by Matt Duckworth

Hart Health Strategies Inc.



Format



Run of Show

Matt introduces Member of Congress

Member of Congress provides remarks

Matt opens moderated Q&A

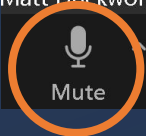
Session concludes



View



Matt Duckworth



Mute



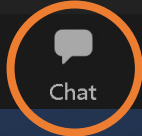
Start Video



Security



Participants



Chat



Share Screen



Record



Reactions



Apps

End



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

Matt Duckworth. Washington, DC.

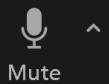
What action do you think Congress will take to avert the impending cuts to Medicare reimbursement?

Who can see your messages?

To: **Everyone** ▾

Type message here...

Matt Duckworth



Schedule

- 9:00 AM – [Rep. Michael Burgess, MD \(R-TX-26\)](#)
- 9:45 AM – [Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD \(R-IA-01\)](#)
- 10:15 AM – [Rep. Andy Harris, MD \(R-MD-01\)](#)
- 11:00 AM – [Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD \(R-IN-08\)](#)
- 11:45 AM – [Rep. Kim Schrier, MD \(D-WA-08\)](#)
- 12:15 PM – BREAK FOR LUNCH
- 1:35 PM – [Rep. Buddy Carter, BSP Pharm \(R-GA-01\)](#)
- 2:30 PM – [Rep. Morgan Griffith \(R-VA-09\)](#)
- 3:30 PM – [Rep. Neal Dunn, MD \(R-FL-02\)](#)

Your Value
to Congress

Constituent

Education

Front-line Experience

Meeting Goals

Be informed

Educate

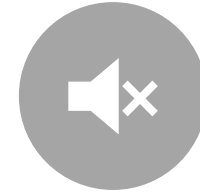
Build relationships

Offer NORM as a resource

Tips for Success



Be on time



Mute your audio



Be Prepared



Conclude
meetings on time

Overview of Issue Briefs



Drug Affordability



Copay Accumulators: An accumulator is a program used by an insurance company or its pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) that excludes the value of copay assistance from counting towards out-of-pocket costs.

Existing policy by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allows the use of accumulators in Affordable Care Act exchange markets.

HELP Copays Act (H.R.830/S.1375)

- Bipartisan, bicameral legislation
- Would prohibit the use of copay accumulator programs in ACA exchange plans and require insurers to honor the full value of copay assistance.

Utilization Management



Some plans are federally regulated, which means states have limited (or no) power to regulate them.

Two federal utilization management reform bills each target different insurance markets:

- Step therapy in ERISA plans: ***Safe Step Act*** (H.R.2630/S. 652) codifies five step therapy exceptions in ERISA plans
 - Advanced in Senate committee
- Prior authorization in Medicare Advantage plans: ***Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*** streamlines prior authorization processes
 - Positive CMS activity since first introduction has affected this legislation
 - Reintroduced version should come with a \$0 CBO 'score'

Reimbursement Stability



Medicare is Failing: According to the American Medical Association, inflation-adjusted reimbursement for physicians from Medicare declined by 26% from 2001 to 2023.

Death by 1,000 Cuts: A poll by the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) found that 60% of responding practices were being charged fees to receive electronic payment by insurers. Approximately a third of respondents (32%) carried fees as high as 3% on every electronic reimbursement.

Reimbursement Stability



The bipartisan ***Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*** (H.R.2474) would provide an annual Fee Schedule update based on the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).

The bipartisan ***No Fees for EFTs Act*** (H.R.6487/S.3805) would prohibit health plans and entities acting on their behalf from imposing fees on healthcare providers for electronic funds transfers and healthcare payment and remittance advice.

Questions?

