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New National Coalition Launches to Protect Affordable Access to Lifesaving Respiratory Antiviral Treatments for High-Risk Adults

The Respiratory Antiviral Alliance is led by the American Medical Women’s Association, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, and Sepsis Alliance

Washington, D.C. — Today, three leading advocacy organizations — the [American Medical Women’s Association](#) (AMWA), [National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs](#) (NANASP), and [Sepsis Alliance](#) — announced the launch of the [Respiratory Antiviral Alliance](#) (RAA), a stakeholder coalition committed to ensuring older adults and people living with chronic conditions can quickly access affordable antiviral treatments for respiratory illnesses.

Respiratory infections like influenza (flu) and COVID-19 continue to threaten millions of Americans, especially the more than [70% of U.S. adults](#) living with at least one chronic condition. Antiviral medications can [reduce the risk](#) of severe illness, hospitalization and death, yet many patients struggle to get a timely diagnosis and treatment.

These challenges fall hardest on older adults and people with chronic illnesses or underlying medical conditions. A [recent national survey](#) by the [Global Healthy Living Foundation](#) found that fewer than half of adults with chronic conditions knew that antiviral treatments were available, and just one in four reported being offered one when they became ill.

“As clinicians, we see firsthand the consequences of delayed treatment,” said AMWA Executive Director Dr. Eliza Chin. “Women, particularly older women and those managing chronic conditions, are among those most impacted. This coalition is about making sure lifesaving interventions are accessible when they are needed most.”

Affordability is becoming an even more significant barrier.

With the end of a federal program that covered COVID-19 antiviral costs, many patients – particularly Medicare beneficiaries and other vulnerable groups – now face higher out-of-pocket

expenses, co-pays and cost sharing. Even modest co-pays [deter use](#), and next year more than half of Medicare Part D enrollees are not expected to reach the \$2,000 annual spending cap, leaving many at risk of delaying or foregoing care.

"Sepsis can develop rapidly following respiratory infections, especially among older adults and those with chronic illnesses," said Sepsis Alliance Chief Medical Officer Dr. Cindy Hou. "Improving timely and equitable access to affordable antiviral prophylaxis and treatment is an important infectious diseases strategy."

Addressing Gaps Through a Coordinated National Effort

The RAA is uniting patient advocacy groups, public-health leaders, and industry partners to drive action in critical areas:

- Maintaining affordability by minimizing or eliminating cost-sharing, particularly for Medicare beneficiaries and other vulnerable groups
- Supporting patient education and continued access to low- and no-cost testing to raise awareness of available treatment options and help individuals know when and how to seek care
- Investing in practitioner education to increase prescribing confidence and ensure patients are offered treatment in a timely manner

"Our network serves millions of older adults every year, and we consistently see how confusing the healthcare system can be when someone gets sick," said NANASP Executive Director Robert Blancato. "The RAA will seek to help ensure older adults receive clearer information and faster pathways to affordable care that can truly save lives."

A New Central Resource

As part of today's launch, the coalition unveiled [RespAntiviral.org](#), a new digital hub designed to make timely, reliable information easier to find. The site [offers](#) patient and caregiver resources and recent research.

The coalition's work is made possible by partners across the healthcare sector with support from Pfizer. Visit [RespAntiviral.org](#) to learn more.

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About the Respiratory Antiviral Alliance (RAA)

The Respiratory Antiviral Alliance (RAA) is a national coalition of patient advocacy organizations dedicated to expanding timely and affordable access to antiviral treatments for respiratory illnesses. Convened by the [American Medical Women's Association \(AMWA\)](#), [National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs \(NANASP\)](#), and [Sepsis Alliance](#), the coalition works to increase patient and provider awareness, reduce barriers to care, and advance evidence-based policies that protect high-risk adults. Learn more at [www.RespAntiviral.org](#).