

Antiviral Access is Within Reach but PREVENTABLE BARRIERS PERSIST

The Respiratory Antiviral Alliance conducted a survey to gauge patient awareness and access to antiviral treatments for viral respiratory illnesses. The findings suggest that, despite generally favorable perceptions of antiviral medicines, preventable barriers, including gaps in awareness, questions about cost and coverage, and some inconsistent provider engagement continue to stand in the way of timely care.

1 Patients Cannot Ask For Treatments They Don't Know Exist

Only **39%** of adults aged 50 and older were aware antivirals were a treatment option at the time of infection.

- Those aware were significantly more likely to receive a prescription (40% vs. 27%)
- More likely to access treatment (53% vs. 44%)
- More likely to complete the full course of treatment (53% vs. 38%)

2 Provider Engagement is a Critical Lever

Despite many having regular contact with a healthcare provider, conversations about antivirals were inconsistent. Awareness is significantly higher among those who heard about antivirals from a clinician or pharmacist.

- Only **51%** report a discussion with a clinician or pharmacist about antivirals
- Only **32%** received a recommendation or prescription
- **36%** say having more information from clinicians and pharmacists would make them more comfortable taking antivirals

3 End of Federal Free Access Introduced New Financial Questions

Affordability can directly impact patient decisions about treatment.

- **31%** of those struggling with co-pays say cost would greatly impact their decision to take antivirals
- **51%** say they would be unlikely to seek treatment if costs increase
- Since the federal program ended, **42%** cite out-of-pocket costs as a barrier

Financial strain may lead to medication avoidance:

- **50%** avoided filling prescriptions
- **49%** delayed picking up their prescriptions

4 Positive Pharmacy Experience

Once prescribed, pharmacy access is generally not a barrier

- **89%** found it easy to fill their prescription at a pharmacy

THE PATH FORWARD

Improving antiviral uptake requires coordinated action:

- **Expand public awareness campaigns**, particularly targeting adults 50+ and those with underlying and chronic medical conditions
- **Provide easy and affordable coverage** post lack of federal support
- **Encourage proactive clinician discussions**
- **Improve clarity around eligibility criteria**

Targeted efforts to improve patient education and reduce cost barriers could meaningfully expand timely antiviral use and help prevent serious illness and hospitalization among higher-risk adults.

For more information, visit the Respiratory Antiviral Alliance at respantiviral.org