THIRD-PARTY PAYER AND PATIENT OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR PREP—UNITED STATES, 2018

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BACKGROUND

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with daily tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) is an effective HIV prevention tool. While the cost of TDF/FTC is high, information about how the costs are distributed across payers is limited. We estimated average third-party payer and out-of-pocket (OOP) costs of TDF/FTC for PrEP by third-party payer type using a national pharmacy database.

METHODS

Using a previously validated algorithm to distinguish TDF/FTC prescription as PrEP prescriptions in the IQVIA Longitudinal Prescriptions database, we compiled nationwide PrEP prescriptions from the year 2018. We classified third-party payers as commercial, Medicaid, Medicare, Gilead Sciences Assistance Program, or other. We compared the mean third-party and OOP cost for 30 pills by third-party payer. Prescriptions with missing cost data were imputed using a generalized linear model and then summed to estimate overall PrEP costs nationally. The imputed overall cost was compared by third-party payer.

RESULTS

In 2018, 219,691 persons filled 1,100,684 prescriptions for PrEP in the United States. Among these prescriptions, 759,409 (69.0%) had complete cost data. The average total cost per 30 TDF/FTC tablets was $1,638 of which $1,544 (94.3%) was paid by third-party payers and $94 (5.7%) were OOP costs. Mean OOP costs were $107 for 30 pills for commercial insurance compared to $80 for Medicare and $3 for Medicaid. Mean third-party payer cost were similar for commercial insurance ($1,549), Medicare ($1,583), and Medicaid ($1,583). The overall imputed cost for PrEP in 2018 was $2.08 billion of which $1.68 billion (80.8%) was covered by commercial insurance, $200 million (9.6%) by Medicaid, $48 million (2.3%) by Medicare, and $127 million (6.1%) by Gilead Sciences programs (Table 1).

In 2018, **$2.08 billion** was spent to cover the medication for **219,691 persons** on PrEP in the United States.

CONCLUSIONS

Total healthcare expenditures on PrEP were large. Commercial insurers cover most PrEP prescriptions costs. OOP costs were lowest for persons with Medicaid and highest for persons with commercial insurance. The pharmacy database could not account for 340B, Medicare, or Medicaid rebates and may overestimate the overall cost these TDF/FTC prescriptions for PrEP. However, the IQVIA database captures approximately 90% of prescription and so may underestimate the overall cost of TDF/FTC for PrEP.

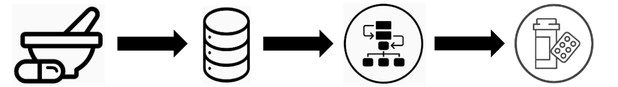

Table 1. Overall PrEP payments by payer type, United States 2018

	$ (%)
Overall Imputed Payment	**2,081,446,817**
Third-Party Payer	
Commercial	1,681,546,413 (80.8)
Medicaid/CHIP	199,956,305 (9.6)
Medicare	47,753,405 (2.3)
Gilead Sciences	
Medication Assistance	104,859,489 (5.0)
Copay Assistance	22,581,206 (1.1)
Other/Unknown	24,749,999 (1.2)

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