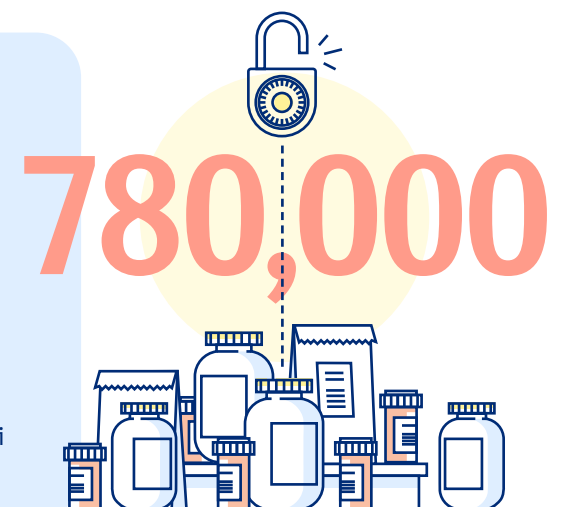


## OUR STANCE

Patient assistance programs are a resource to patients who need help to gain access to the medications they need. BI's goal is that no patient be denied access to our medicines because of cost and we are committed to helping patients through access programs. The BI Cares Foundation Patient Assistance Program has provided free medicines for over of **780,000 patients**.<sup>i</sup>



# 20%



## PRECARIOUS PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS TO PATIENT ASSISTANCE

Health plans have recently adopted restrictions which threaten patient access to critical financial assistance. Examples of restrictions include “copay accumulator programs,” whereby the copay assistance provided by manufacturers does not count toward patients' share of costs for insurance plan deductibles and out-of-pocket limits. This can keep some patients from accessing the medicine they and their physicians prefer. It is estimated that copay accumulator programs are included in **up to 20% of commercial medical insurance policies sold in 2018**.<sup>ii</sup>

## POTENTIAL PATIENT HARM

BI is concerned with actions that would exclude or prohibit patient assistance programs. We are concerned that these proposals will place an even greater financial burden on patients causing a reduction in medication adherence. Many studies have shown that reduction in medication adherence increases the cost of healthcare. It is estimated to cause nearly **125,000 deaths and 10% of hospitalizations**, and costs the already-strained healthcare system between **\$100-\$289 billion a year**.<sup>iii</sup> These misguided policy proposals have the potential to harm our healthcare system and restrict patient access to the medicines they need.

# \$100 TO \$289 BILLION



# CITATIONS



- <sup>i</sup> BI. Patient Assistance Program. <https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.us/our-responsibility/patient-assistance-program>
- <sup>ii</sup> Morning Consult, "Who Stole My Savings?" Jan. 4, 2018. <https://morningconsult.com/opinions/whos-stealing-my-savings/>
- <sup>iii</sup> <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/1357338/interventions-improve-adherence-self-administered-medications-chronic-diseases-united-states>