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Will Trump’s Plan Cut Costs or Hurt Access?

The Trump administration has proposed changes to the Medicare program. Today, there are six classes of medications in which all drug options must be covered. These classes include antidepressants, anti-seizure medication, cancer drugs, and HIV-AIDS drugs. None of the medications treating these conditions can be denied.

The administration wants to allow health plans to exclude certain drugs, which could give the plans more leverage to drive down their prices. The proposal would also allow health plans to require patients to try a cheaper medication before they can get a more expensive one. What do you think about this plan and are you thinking as a taxpayer, a patient, or a family member?

“Proposed Changes on Medicare Drugs Create Winners and Losers,” Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Associated Press, November 26, 2018: https://www.apnews.com/3bd64e35b6bf4b78aa05cb7310700244