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**Date:** September 30, 2021

**To:** External

**From:** Sick Cells

RE: September 2021 Policy Update

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September was an active month for policy! Between balancing events for Sickle Cell Awareness Month, getting excited for reconciliation season & finishing up Q3 activities, our team was busy. Read on to see what we were up to this month.

- **Sick Cells participated in two state Medicaid meetings**
  - [Minnesota Drug Formulary Committee](#) Meeting - September 8
    - Written comments submitted by Sick Cells, oral comments made by Rae Blaylark, CEO of [Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota](#), and one other advocate
    - Comments urged them to make Siklos preferred & remove all prior authorization requirements for SCD treatments
    - No change to state Medicaid [formulary](#)
  - [Pennsylvania P&T Committee](#) Meeting - September 14 & 15
    - Written comments submitted by Sick Cells, one advocate trained to provide oral comments
    - Comments urged them to make all SCD treatments preferred & remove all prior authorization requirements
    - No change to state Medicaid [formulary](#)
- **Sick Cells signed three letters from other organizations**
  - Alliance for Aging Research [letter](#)
    - Request to reduce out-of-pocket costs in Medicare Part D in the FY22 reconciliation package
    - Signed along with 131 other organizations
  - CMMI Letter of Support
    - Letter affirming that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) “provides a robust research and development platform to test and evaluate new payment and delivery approaches...”
  - American Society of Hematology Medicaid Demo Letter
    - Request to Congress to develop a Medicaid demonstration program for SCD treatment, with a focus on young adults



- **Sick Cells hosted a workshop on “Driving Legislation in your State”** as an [Ambassador Program](#) Priority Topic Meeting (PTM). This month’s meeting touched on:
  - State policy vs federal policy
  - Local organizing
  - State-level SCD programs
  - Our October PTM will be a deep-dive into recent SCD state legislation across the country.

*To join the Ambassador Program & get involved in our policy work, please fill out [this](#) form.*

**See you in October!**