In 2018 the U.S. spent $2 trillion on health care.

Note: the ‘prescription medicines’ category includes drugs purchased by the patient at a pharmacy (or via mail order). Many other spending categories in this graph include some costs for drugs that are administered in hospitals or in doctor’s offices.

In 2018, the U.S. spent $113 billion on cancer-related health care – nearly $5.6 billion of which was spent by patients out-of-pocket.

Note: the ‘prescription medicines’ category includes drugs purchased by the patient at a pharmacy (or via mail order). The other spending categories in this graph include some costs for drugs that are administered in hospitals or in doctor’s offices – like intravenous chemotherapy treatment.

Source: Data retrieved from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2018. https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/. The costs in this graph only include direct medical expenses, and do not include indirect costs such as transportation, lost wages, etc.

Keeping health care affordable for cancer patients and other Americans requires a comprehensive examination of all cost drivers. Cancer patients, survivors, their loved ones and family members all need greater efficiencies and more affordability in each sector of the health care system.

Updated April 16, 2021