



## **National Brain Tumor Society Public Policy and Advocacy Update Vol. 8, No. 10**

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### **PCHETA passes in House of Representatives**

The [Palliative Care & Hospice Education and Training Act \(PCHETA\)](#) passed the United States House of Representatives this week, thanks to brain tumor advocates and advocates for serious illnesses across the country. We are one step closer to passage of the bill, and improving the quality of life of brain tumor patients.

PCHETA would ensure that patients and providers understand the benefits of palliative care, and that an adequate, appropriately trained workforce is available to provide the pain and symptom management, intensive communication, and level of care coordination required by patients facing a serious and complex illness.

PCHETA now moves to the Senate, where we will focus our advocacy efforts towards final passage of the bill.

Thank you for your continued commitment to sharing your important experiences with your legislators. The power of your story and action have helped to move this legislation forward.

### **Vincristine Shortage Update**

Over the past few weeks, there have been reports of a shortage of Vincristine, a drug which is the backbone of many childhood cancer treatment protocols. We have been working closely with the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, Coalition Against Childhood Cancer, the Children's Oncology Group and the Food & Drug Administration to learn the facts and determine next steps.

Pfizer, the sole supplier of Vincristine, experienced manufacturing delays which caused the shortage. Pfizer has indicated that they are now able to ship the product for current patient needs until the end of the year, and will be fully restocked by January.

The FDA is recommending that if families are having difficulties accessing this drug, they should have their oncologist promptly contact the FDA at [drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov). In addition, if you are experiencing stress or trauma because of the current vincristine drug shortage, for information and resources contact the [Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress \(CPTS\)](#).

To learn more about the shortage and steps being taken to resupply the drug, [please watch this webinar](#) that was presented to the community last week.

Please stay tuned for more information about a coordinated day of action around this issue. If you have been impacted by this shortage or other shortages during your treatment, please contact us at (617) 996-1773.

### **Federal Health Insurance Exchange Open Enrollment**

The Federal Health Insurance Exchange, also known as the Marketplace, Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2019 to December 15, 2019, for coverage starting on January 1, 2020.

Consumers can visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and [CuidadodeSalud.gov](http://CuidadodeSalud.gov) to preview 2020 plans and prices before Open Enrollment begins. Starting November 1, consumers can log in to [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and [CuidadodeSalud.gov](http://CuidadodeSalud.gov) or call 1-800-318-2596 to fill out an application and enroll in a 2020 Exchange health plan.

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National Brain Tumor Society unrelentingly invests in, mobilizes, and unites our community to discover a cure, deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and care partners. Our vision is to conquer and cure brain tumors - once and for all.

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