Background

- Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) is one of the four most common types of leukemia.
- Imatinib—an oral chemotherapy—was the first drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat CML.
- Imatinib dramatically extended patient survival rates from CML.1

Purpose

- This study explored existing resources that are available to assist CML patients with obtaining financial access to Imatinib.

Methods and Analysis

- Guided by Felder and Bennett's (2013)2 outline of patient assistance programs, a web-based search of publically accessible resources was conducted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Assistance Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aflac</td>
<td>Cancer insurance policies that provide cash benefits during cancer treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>HealthWell Foundation.org</td>
<td>Financial assistance with medication/therapy costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>NeedyMeds</td>
<td>Directory of public and private resources and programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership for Prescription Assistance org</td>
<td>Directory of public and private resources and programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient Advocate Foundation</td>
<td>Case management to resolve patient health care and related cost concerns</td>
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<tr>
<td>RxAssist</td>
<td>Directory of public and private resources and programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xubex</td>
<td>Discounted medications and financial assistance</td>
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- This study is currently in progress. Final data collected will be summarized in a resource list that can be used by health care providers and patients.

Results (cont.)

- The manufacturer of Imatinib has 2 PAPs:
  - Novartis Patient Assistance NOW Oncology
  - Novartis Imatinib Copay Program
    - Pays up to $7,500/month or $26,000/year on the deductible cost
  - Xubex offers a $25/month discount coupon
  - Drugs.com offers a discount card that may cover up to 80% of Imatinib costs based on insurance

- Next steps for this research include conducting follow-up web-based searches using keywords: ‘Patient Assistance Programs,’ AND ‘Gleevec,’ OR ‘Imatinib Mesylate,’ OR ‘Chronic Myeloid Leukemia,’ AND ‘Co-pay Assistance.’

Implications

- Determining if prescription assistance programs are available for Imatinib and similar oral chemotherapies may be particularly important for patients facing financial barriers to accessing their treatment.
- Healthcare providers, such as nurses and pharmacists, can play a major role in informing patients about these resources and helping them navigate the application process.

References: