

yesRx COMMUNITY BULLETIN WINTER 2024

In 2006, Michigan approved Public Act 416, the **Michigan Cancer Drug Repository (CDR) Program**, allowing patients to donate unused, unopened cancer medications that can be provided at no cost to other patients in need. 15 years passed until earnest pharmacists in community oncology practices established the first CDRs in the State in 2021. Their success resulted in overwhelming utilization and need far beyond the resources available in many clinical settings.

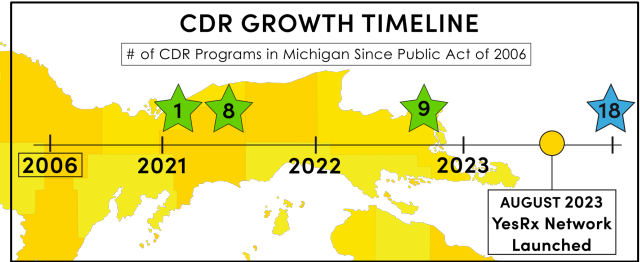
YesRx FORMED IN JUNE 2023, as an agnostic charitable service organization to: 1) provide essential support to streamline CDR program operations, 2) connect cancer clinicians across a State-wide Network of CDR programs, 3) develop a shared perpetual CDR inventory of medications available for clinicians to access for patients - at no cost.

In the first 183 days, YesRx leadership concentrated work on solutions for clinicians to help patients quickly access the cancer medication they need and donate those they don't.

- ✔ **CREATED WWW.YESRX.ORG RESOURCE HUB FOR MEMBERS**
- ✔ **DEVELOPED PROCESSES TO STREAMLINE CDR PROGRAM SETUP FOR MEMBERS**
- ✔ **RAISED FUNDS TO PROVIDE A NO COST SOLUTION FOR PATIENTS AND CLINICIANS**

IN AUGUST, with generous funding support from Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan through the Value Partnerships Program, the YesRx Network launched and quickly formed a consortium of licensed CDR programs in Michigan. YesRx 1) facilitates LARA licensing requests for CDR program participation, 2) creates essential resources to reduce implementation barriers, and 3) provides access to State-wide CDR inventory for Network members.

The remarkable outcomes achieved in the first 6 months of the Network operations are a direct result of member engagement and community support. From July to December 2023, sites offering CDR programs in Michigan doubled from 9 to 18. This growth translated to a 10x increase in the number of patients who were able to receive CDR medication. On average, 18 patients per month have been prescribed and dispensed cancer treatment from the CDR, at no cost, to address financial barriers to their therapy.

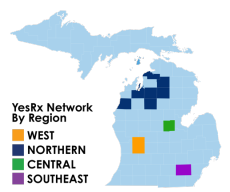


The initial data are clear indicators of:

- **Clinician adoption** of CDR resources available through the Network.
- **Patient desire** for a way to donate unused medication for the benefit of another patient.
- **Community support** for improving medication access for patients with cancer.

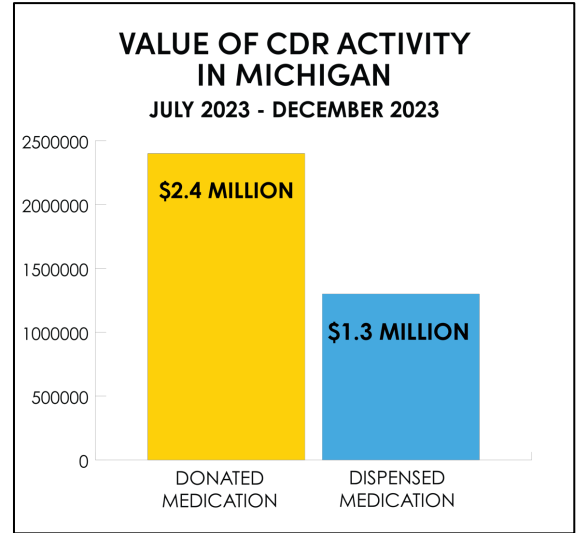
YesRx Network meetings held twice a month are attended by members invested in making the infinite impact of a Statewide CDR a reality for patients in Michigan. The meetings are a valuable source of best practice and resource sharing; and insights into challenges where YesRx can provide services to help decrease individual member burden. As a result, YesRx

- ✔ **DEVELOPED A STATEWIDE CDR INVENTORY DATABASE AND ROLLED-OUT PERPETUAL CDR INVENTORY UPDATE COMMUNICATIONS FOR MEMBERS**
- ✔ **OPTIMIZED THE EFFICIENT TRANSFER OF INVENTORY TO MEMBER SITES ACROSS THE STATE**
- ✔ **LAUNCHED A CENTRAL CDR PHARMACY LOCATION TO SUPPORT CLINICIANS SERVING ALL COMMUNITIES**
- ✔ **CREATED PATIENT AND CLINICIAN FACING EDUCATION MATERIALS**



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES REPORTING

from the first **6-months of YesRx operations data** demonstrates continued growth and significant indicators that support our collaborative and interconnected approach. During the period from July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023, **over 125 patients donated** medication (valued at \$2.4M) and **106 patients were dispensed prescriptions**, at no cost (valued at \$1.3M). On average the YesRx Network CDRs were able to provide each patient with **30 days of therapy** valued at **\$13,000 per prescription**.



CANCER DRUG REPOSITORY PROGRAMS PROVIDE RELIEF TO PATIENTS

During the recent holiday season, a patient on a high-deductible, commercial insurance plan needed CDR help. Not having met their deductible yet, the monthly medication copay totaled \$3,300 and only \$115 was covered by the manufacturer copay card. The patient's pharmacist, a YesRx Network member in West Michigan, saw the medication was in the Statewide Network Inventory and requested the medication for their patient.



Jennifer VanSickler, PharmD
Sparrow Herbert-Herman
Cancer Center
Lansing



Katie Sias, PharmD, BCOP
MyMichigan Health
Midland

A fellow YesRx Network member pharmacist in Central Michigan went to work to secure the medication for the patient. In less than 3 days the patient was provided enough free CDR medication to stay on therapy until their deductible was met and their copay decreased to \$100.

NETWORK MOMENTUM IS STRONG

and made possible by the clinicians doing the work across the Network and reinforced by the ongoing expansion led by the team (pictured at right) at our **founding central CDR pharmacy** location, Trinity Health Pharmacy at Reichert Center in Ypsilanti.



[left to right] **Matt Navarre, PharmD**, Regional Manager Retail Pharmacy, Trinity Health, **Rachelle Roush, PharmD**, Lead Pharmacist, Trinity Health Reichert, **Dr. Katie Beekman, MD**, Oncologist and Medical Director, Trinity Health IHA Hematology Oncology Medical Group, **Emily Johengen, PharmD**, Clinical Pharmacist, Trinity Health IHA Hematology Oncology Medical Group

YesRx leadership continues **to secure funding**

to keep CDR programs in Michigan at no cost for patients and Network members; **and scale up Network** operational support to spread the positive impact of CDR programs into more communities. Strategic partnerships are being formed to specifically support CDR program implementation in our rural and underserved communities. There is so much good being done in our State, with so many groups working on behalf of patients with cancer our goal is to connect and share YesRx with each one. We need your help, please reach out to tell us about groups we should know about at hello@yesrx.org. **We believe in the power of doing good for patients, together.**



Trinity Health



SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

for the patients we are here to serve and for the existence of YesRx. We are in awe of the groundbreaking efforts from the cancer clinicians across the YesRx Network who make this powerful impact on the lives of patients with cancer possible. The generous funding and operational support YesRx has received from our founding sponsors covers the costs required to do this work that helps patients in our State. Many private individuals who donate \$20 (and more!) have made it possible for CDR medication to be shipped to clinicians across Michigan who can provide it to patients in need, for free. We hold deep gratitude for you all.

We are deeply grateful to be welcomed into the inclusive system of organizations who have been long leading efforts that directly tackle the hard questions of access and inequity in cancer care. We are thrilled to be working together for patients.



IN OCTOBER, YesRx teamed up with an organization that stands tall as a pillar of servant leadership with keen focus on the health of all Michigan communities, exemplified in how they “step in and step up”. When YesRx Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Emily Mackler shared our vision with leaders at Trinity Health they listened, and asked - how can we help? The answer is at work right now. We are thrilled to partner alongside the exceptional Trinity Health team who put their hearts and souls into work that helps extend the reach of the YesRx mission into every Michigan community.



[front, center] **Joanne MacDonald, PharmD**, Regional Director of Pharmacy Services, Trinity Health Michigan [left to right] **Farah Jalloul, PharmD**, Founder, YesRx, **Emily Mackler, PharmD**, Founder, YesRx, **Rachelle Roush, PharmD**, Lead Pharmacist Trinity Health Reichert, **Emily Johengen**, Clinical Pharmacist, Trinity Health IHA Hematology Oncology Group, **Siobhan Norman**, Founder, YesRx [left to right] **Alonzo Lewis**, President, Trinity Health Ann Arbor and Livingston, **Matt Navarre, PharmD**, Regional Manager Retail Pharmacy, Trinity Health

THE YesRx NETWORK

is comprised of cancer clinicians across Michigan providing relief to patients by working together to provide a solution that can increase medication access and reduce medication waste. The proof is in the first 6 months of YesRx and the impact the founding members have already made on hundreds of patients.

**Patients, please share YesRx with your doctor.
Clinicians, the YesRx Network is here to help.**

★ Join Us!

- ★ MyMichigan Health – Midland
- ★ Munson Healthcare – Cadillac, Charlevoix, Gaylord, Grayling, Kalkaska, Manistee, Traverse City
- ★ The Cancer and Hematology Centers – Grand Rapids
- ★ Trinity Health Reichert Pharmacy – Ypsilanti
- ★ Trinity Health IHA Hematology Oncology – Brighton, Chelsea, Canton, Novi, Oakland, Ypsilanti
- ★ Sparrow Herbert Herman Cancer Center – Lansing
- ★ Covenant Healthcare – Saginaw

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PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

You are a part of the **yesRx** mission. When you **DONATE** and **SHARE YesRx** you are directly supporting patients with cancer in Michigan.

YesRx is a 501(c)(3)
service organization



www.yesrx.org hello@yesrx.org

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