



**Hematology-Oncology  
Associates of CNY**  
Personalized cancer care –  
when you need us, where you need us.  
315.472.7504 | hoacny.com



Patient Newsletter June 2023

### Wearing Masks in Our Offices is Now Optional



If you are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, please wear a mask for the safety of our patients and staff.  
Thank you!

We will continue to have masks available should you need one.  
If you would like a staff member to wear a mask for your comfort level and potential risk factors, please respectfully ask and they will gladly oblige.  
Please note, according to the New York State Department of Health, anyone diagnosed with COVID is still required to isolate for 5 days, followed by 5 days of continued mask wearing.

### Important Update:

**Changes to Medication Delivery  
The Government is Stopping Us  
from Delivering Your Drugs.**

**See How You Can Help ----->**

We have an important update regarding the delivery of your oral medications (pills). The government has implemented a new ruling that affects how we provide your prescription drugs.

Here is what you need to know:

1. A recent decision by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the government agency that runs Medicare, says we can no longer mail or deliver patient medications.
2. Patients are now required to personally visit the clinic to pick up all medications. Even friends and family members cannot pick them up for you.
3. This change is based on a bad interpretation of an old law against doctors from having conflicts of interest. But, it makes no sense that our dispensing medication directly is any different than our dispensing it through the mail.
4. Forcing patients to travel to our clinic for every prescription risks disrupting or stopping the care of our sick patients, especially seniors who may not drive, have difficulty with transportation, or live in rural areas.
5. The government says patients who can't travel can get their prescriptions from big corporations called pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). But PBMs often delay or deny care!
6. We are working with the Community Oncology Alliance (COA) to overturn this decision. It puts patients at risk, and was also made without following the law for such a large change.

**We understand the concerns this decision is causing patients and assure you that we are actively working to address it. You can help by following the directions at the top right of this article. Thank you for your continued trust and support.**



Please consider contacting Congress and ask them to help fix this change.

You can use this link to quickly send a letter online to your local representatives:

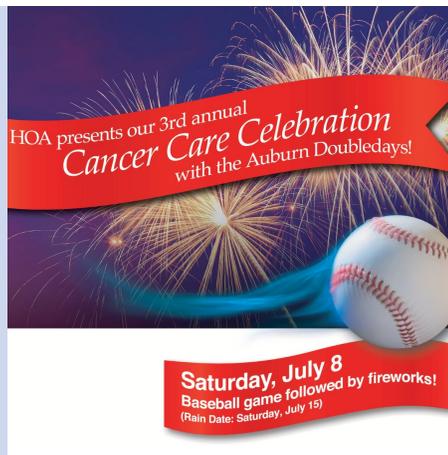
<https://p2a.co/czLHSaI>

### APPOINTMENT CANCELLATION/ NO-SHOW POLICY

As always, we thank you for trusting Hematology Oncology Associates with your medical care. Please know when you schedule an appointment with HOA we set aside enough time to provide you with the highest quality care. Should you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment, please contact our office as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours prior to your scheduled appointment. This gives us time to schedule other patients who may be waiting for an appointment.

As a reminder, any patient who fails to show or cancel/reschedule an appointment and has not contacted our office with at least 24 hours notice will be considered a No-Show. For each No-Show a fee of \$50 fee is charged if they are an established patient, or a \$100 fee if they are a new patient.

Thank you for your understanding.



### DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS YET?

**We want you to join us Saturday, July 8 for the Auburn Doubledays game followed by fireworks!**  
130 N. Division St., Auburn, NY  
**Gates open at 6 p.m. - Game starts at 7 p.m.**

FREE admission to ANYONE who registers [by clicking here](#) with this link or who picks up a ticket at one of our locations.

- The evening is fun for all ages, with...
- Recognition ceremony & gift for cancer survivors
  - Free t-shirts for the first 500 guests
  - Prize wheel for attendees
  - Meet the HOA staff



with Dr. Iqra Choudary



with Dr. Ajeet Gajra

[Click here](#) to listen to Dr. Iqra Choudary on WSYR-TV 9's *Bridge Street* discuss the importance of support services in cancer survivorship.

[Click here](#) to listen to Dr. Gajra on 93Q- FM discuss skin cancer prevention and treatment.

Offices: Auburn - East Syracuse - Onondaga Hill | 315/472-7504 | hoacny.com

