



Our Mission: To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

Before we begin I'd like to thank Chairman Huffman, fellow committee members and the providers who have taken the time out of their busy schedule to address an issue that is vital to the health and well-being of Ohio residents.

My name is MaryAnn McCabe and I am the state government relations manager for the National Psoriasis Foundation. The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit, voluntary health agency dedicated to curing psoriatic disease and improving the lives of those affected. The Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 3.8 million Americans and 370,800 Ohioans living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

HB72 seeks to minimize barriers to treatment by improving the step therapy process. HB72 is sponsored by Rep. Terry Johnson (R) and Rep. Nickie Antonio (D).

Step therapy is a tool insurers use to limit how much they spend covering patients' medications. Under step therapy, a patient must try one or more drugs chosen by their insurer—usually based on financial, not medical, considerations—before coverage is granted for the drug prescribed by the patient's health care provider. Patients may be required to try one or more alternative prescription drugs that are of lower cost to the insurer, but may not be the best therapy for some patients.

HB72 will improve the step therapy process by:

1. Requiring that an insurer's process for requesting a step therapy override is transparent and available to the provider and patient.
2. Allowing automatic exceptions to step therapy requirements when:
 - The required prescription drug is contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction
 - The required prescription drug is expected to be ineffective
 - The patient has previously tried the required drug or a drug in the same pharmacologic class and the drug was ineffective or caused an adverse event
 - The required prescription drug is not in the best interests of the patient based on medical appropriateness
 - The patient is stable on a prescription drug for the medical condition under consideration.
3. Ensuring that step therapy programs are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts.

Thank you again,

MaryAnn McCabe
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