



Advocacy in ACTION

Fighting for People with Arthritis



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Arthritis Foundation Opposes Extensive Prior Authorization Time in Iowa

The Arthritis Foundation has filed comments with the Iowa Insurance Commissioner to oppose a proposed rule that would allow for a lengthy time period for the prior authorization of medications. The rule would allow a 72-hour prior authorization period for “urgent claims,” which are considered dangerous or extreme pain conditions, and 15 days for “non-urgent claims,” a term that is not defined in the rule. In addition, Arthritis Foundation Ambassadors have made phone calls and sent letters to the commissioner making it clear that people with arthritis are against any policy that permits a delay or interrupts access to necessary medications or treatments.

Montana to Require Health Insurers to Provide More Affordable Drug Coverage

Montana Insurance Commissioner Monica Lindeen has announced a new requirement for health insurance plans operating in the state to cover all drugs the same. The new policy will effectively require flat dollar co-pays and eliminate specialty tiers. The change should bring lower prices to prescription drugs in Montana. The Arthritis Foundation joined with the American College of Rheumatology in authoring a letter of thanks to Commissioner Lindeen and asking her to work with her colleagues in other states who have the authority to make similar policy changes. A copy of the letter may be [viewed here](#).

Questions about the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Arthritis Foundation attended a briefing where the National Health Council showcased its new website that helps consumers understand their out-of-pocket cost when shopping for health insurance in the marketplace.

[PuttingPatientsFirst.net](#) is a unique platform that seeks to make consumers more informed about expected health care costs in the marketplace using a personalized out-of-pocket cost estimator. The site also uses patient health scenarios to explain how an individual's costs can vary under different health insurance plan designs. The site prompts you to enter basic information including expected use of medical services (doctor's office visits, hospital, surgery, etc.) and expected medication usage. It then shows estimated annual cost to the consumer over all four metal levels available in their particular state. Individuals are also given the option to select a scenario that is close to their circumstances and the site will produce estimates based on the profile selected.

So if you plan on enrolling in a health insurance plan, please visit [PuttingPatientsFirst.net](#) and explore all the site has to offer in helping make the critical decision of selecting an insurance plan.

Arthritis Foundation Co-sponsors MapRX Coalition to Help Navigate Medicare Annual Enrollment Period

The annual enrollment for Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) is October 15 to December 7, 2014. To make the plan choices that work best for you, the Arthritis Foundation partnered with MapRX to sponsor a [2015 Medicare Prescription Drug Annual Open Enrollment Guide](#). The guide covers frequently asked questions, describes any changes to Medicare Part D and illustrates the options that are available to patients.

The MapRX coalition brings together beneficiary, family caregiver and health professional organizations committed to improving access to prescription medications and safeguarding the well-being of beneficiaries with chronic diseases and disabilities under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D). The Arthritis Foundation is proud to partner with more than 30 organizations to ensure access to prescription medications.

*This is a publication from the Arthritis Foundation Advocacy and Access
Department*

For questions, please contact us at advocacy@arthritis.org

