

December 13, 2013

Andrew Behm, PharmD
Vice President, Office of Clinical Evaluation and Policy
Express Scripts
6301 Cecilia Circle
Minneapolis, MN 55439

Dear Dr. Behm,

I am following up on the letter I sent to you, dated November 8, 2013, in which I inquired about Express Scripts' new standard National Preferred Formulary. I asked for clarification on two points, and am now specifically asking the following questions:

1. Will people who are currently stabilized on Cimzia, Simponi, Simponi Aria, Stelara or Xeljanz for all or part of the 90 days prior to January 1, 2014, be able to continue to access these medications at a discounted price (Tier 3)?
2. Will people who have been unable to achieve adequate disease control by taking the preferred alternative therapies be given access to Cimzia, Simponi, Simponi Aria, Stelara or Xeljanz, based on a physician letter of appeal, at a discounted price (Tier 3)?

Seeing that more than 30 days has passed with no response to my letter, I want to restate the importance of this issue and inform you of our intentions.

The Arthritis Foundation received inquiries from patients and physicians who are concerned about the new formulary exclusion list. What works for one patient may not work for another. That's why the Arthritis Foundation supports access to a full range of treatment options. Without early and effective disease control, people with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and similar autoimmune and inflammatory forms of arthritis face permanent joint damage and loss of function. There is typically a brief therapeutic window for prevention of the long-term disabling consequences of arthritis.

Our goal is to minimize barriers to early and effective treatment. The Arthritis Foundation believes patients who are on a therapy that is working should be allowed to continue that treatment, and new patients should be able to determine, along with their physician, which therapies would be best for them. By excluding some of the newest therapies you also are discouraging innovation and the potential for new treatment options.

Because you have not responded to my inquiry, we find it necessary to reach out to employers and patients directly. We are at a delicate time with open enrollment for employer health plans pending after the New Year. We are asking patients to find out if their companies are considering purchasing plans with the new, restrictive formulary, and if so, to ask that they not do so. We also

are contacting employers directly, asking them not to implement this new change to the pharmacy benefit.

Please see the enclosed letters that will be sent to the CEOs, CMOs and Human Resources Departments of employers. The Arthritis Foundation will be posting this letter and Express Script's response, if any, on our website and social media pages, as well as sending copies to the press.

I welcome the opportunity to talk with you further about this, to see if we can ensure people with arthritis have access to the treatments they need. Corporate decisions to restrict available therapies have powerful impacts on the lives of people who already endure or want to avoid significant pain and permanent disability.

Sincerely,



Ann Palmer
CEO and President
Arthritis Foundation



Daniel T. McGowan
Chair
Arthritis Foundation