

Co-Sponsor HR 2077 ***Restoring the Patient's Voice Act***

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation supports HR 2077, *Restoring the Patient's Voice Act* and encourages legislators to co-sponsor the bill. Introduced by Representatives Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-2) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA-36), HR 2077 would implement patient protections in step therapy protocols.

What is step therapy?

Step therapy is when a patient is required to fail first on an insurer-preferred medication before receiving coverage for the physician-prescribed medication. It is a medical management tool used by health plans to control costs.

How does step therapy impact patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD)?

When implemented inappropriately, step therapy can delay needed treatment, lead to worsened health outcomes, and exacerbate costs. In 2016, the Foundation issued a survey to our constituent list to ascertain how many individuals were affected by step therapy. 2,602 constituents responded to the survey, including individuals from every state. Respondents reported the following:

- 70% had employer insurance, 7% individual, 11% Medicare, 3% Medicaid
- 40% had to go through step therapy process. Of those,
 - 42% reported having to try and fail 1 medication, 30% tried 2 medications, 18% tried 3 medications, 5% tried 4 medications, 5% tried 5 medications
- 14% of patients that had to do step therapy had to repeat the process of step therapy when they changed insurance

In addition, there was widespread support for legislation like HR 2077:

- 94% of patients believed step therapy is a barrier to timely and appropriate care
- 96% supported legislation to ensure doctors can prescribe the most appropriate medication
- 88% wanted legislation to limit the use of step therapy

What would HR 2077 do?

- Require health plans to implement a clear appeal process
- Establish a time frame insurers must respond to appeals
- Establish circumstances in which a patient can be exempt from step therapy when medically appropriate