



**NEW MEXICO
MEDICAL SOCIETY**



ALBUQUERQUE
CENTER FOR
RHEUMATOLOGY



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de Oro,
Inc.



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A FIGHTING CHANCE FOR EVERY BABY™



50 YEARS

CSRO
COALITION OF STATE RHEUMATOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS

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**Neuropathy
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Awareness • Education • Engagement



**CANCER SUPPORT
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A Clear Understanding of Your Fight



**GLOBAL HEALTHY LIVING
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YOUR HEALTH. YOUR HAPPINESS.



**EPILEPSY
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**Arthritis
Foundation®**



HFA
Hemophilia Federation of America™

**CROHN'S & COLITIS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**

NICA
NATIONAL
INFUSION CENTER
ASSOCIATION

AfPA
Alliance for Patient Access

Support Step Therapy Reform

End “fail first” to help patients across New Mexico!

What is fail first/step therapy?

- ✓ The practice of “fail first” or “step therapy” is affecting patients across New Mexico and the country. The practice, imposed by health insurers in an attempt to control their costs, requires patients to try one or several medications before being covered for the drug actually prescribed by their doctor.
- ✓ All too often, this delays access to the optimal treatment, prolonging needless suffering and exacerbating a patient’s condition. The decision-making relationship between patients and their doctors is vital and should not be hindered by insurers.
- ✓ Having to adhere to an insurer’s protocols first and recommendations of their doctors second creates an even larger burden for patients with chronic conditions.

Senate Bill 11 & House Bill 42

- ✓ Senate Bill 11 filed by Senator Gay Kernan and Senator Elizabeth “Liz” Stefanics, as well as House Bill 42 filed by Representative Elizabeth “Liz” Thomson and Representative Monica Youngblood, would require insurers to base any step therapy or fail first decisions on strict clinical guidelines and/or peer-reviewed journals.
- ✓ The legislation would establish exceptions to the step therapy process, allowing patients to access their prescribed medicine, if taking a different, “preferred” drug could cause an adverse event or be ineffective based on their known clinical characteristics.
- ✓ The bills also would protect patients from being required to use their insurance company’s “preferred” drug if they have already tried and discontinued it under previous health care coverage, due to lack of efficacy or an adverse event.
- ✓ Patients also would be exempted from being required to fail first on the insurance company’s “preferred” drug if, during their current or previous health coverage, they proved to be stable on the medicine prescribed by their doctor.
- ✓ Insurers would be required to respond to requests within 72 hours or the prescribed medication would be automatically approved.

New Mexico Fail First Awareness Coalition

- ✓ The New Mexico Fail First Awareness Coalition represents thousands of patients and medical professionals across the state who are seeking fail first/step therapy reform.
- ✓ The Coalition includes: AARP of New Mexico, Albuquerque Center for Rheumatology, Alliance for Patient Access, American Academy of Dermatology, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Arthritis Foundation, Cancer Support Community, Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America, Epilepsy Foundation, Global Healthy Living Foundation, Hemophilia Federation of America, International Cancer Advocacy Network, International Pain Foundation, March of Dimes, National Infusion Center Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Psoriasis Foundation, Neuropathy Action Foundation, New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistants, New Mexico Cancer Center, New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association, and Sangre de Oro.

Contact

- ✓ Please support legislation to help patients, particularly those with chronic conditions, achieve stability in the face of fail first or step therapy practices by health insurers. If you would like more information, please contact Erin Muffoletto at erin@nmlobbying.com.