

Step Rx Therapy

To protect patients from the harmful impact of Step Therapy policies, Ohio lawmakers should pass HB 72/SB 56, that reforms this process.

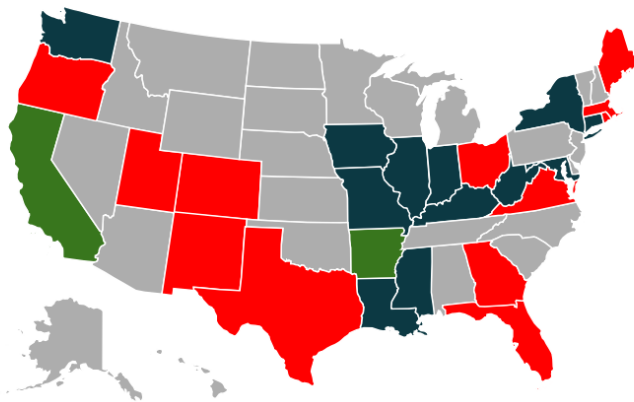
(1) Report from Health Strategies Group, published by Managed Care Oncology during the 4th quarter of 2012.
(2) Pharmaceutical Step-Therapy Interventions: A Critical Review of the Literature," J Manag Care Pharm. 2011;17(2):143-55.
(3) Step therapy comeback continues." Journal of Managed Care. September, 2012. Available at <http://www.managedcaremag.com/archives/1209/1209.outlook.htm>
I. Last accessed January 25, 2015.

FAST FACTS

- Step therapy, also known as "Fail First", is a tool used by health plans to control an insurer's costs. Under step therapy rules, a patient is required to try one or more alternative prescription drugs, chosen by their health plan, before coverage is granted for the drug originally prescribed by a patient's health care provider.
- Step therapy is applied to drugs treating a wide range of diseases and conditions including autoimmune diseases, psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, mental health, among others.
- The use of step therapy has increased. In 2010, nearly 60% of commercial insurers were using step therapy. Fifty-four percent of plans reported using it for cancer drugs in 2012, up from 36% the previous year.
- Step therapy has shown it can have a negative impact on patients, including delayed access to the most effective treatment, disease progression and significant burdens on health care providers and their patients, as well as increases in health care costs.
- Patient and health care provider organizations urge state lawmakers to pass legislation to establish basic safeguards from the harmful impact of step therapy. It will also allow health care providers and patients to make decisions based on the best treatment options and a patient's medical history and not health plan step therapy protocols.treatment options and a patient's medical history and characteristics.

Arkansas included language to protect patients from Step Therapy in legislation addressing Prior Authorization, which passed in 2017..

California's law only relates to Fail First exceptions & uniform prior authorization forms.



Existing State Laws

AR, CA, CT, IA, IL, IN, KY
LA, MD, MO, MS, NY, WA, WV

2017 Pending Legislation

FL, GA, MA, ME, MN, NM
OH, OR, RI, TX, UT, VA

Highlights of Ohio HB 72/SB 56

- Ensures step therapy protocols are based on clinical guidelines and not solely cost to the health plan.
- Provides for a transparent exceptions and appeals process for prescribing health care providers & patients.
- All requests and appeals must be determined within seventy-two hours for non-emergency and twenty-four hours for emergency cases.
- Establishes circumstances for the prescribing health care provider to override step therapy when medically appropriate for a patient.

What Ohio HB 72/SB 56

- It does not prevent health plans from using step therapy nor limit the number of allowed steps.
- It does not require health plans to develop a new exceptions process.
- It does not prevent health plans from requiring prior authorization before covering a drug.
- It does not prevent insurers from requiring patients to try a generic drug if it is equivalent to a brand.

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