

ACS CAN SUPPORTS

Step Therapy – Patients Need the Right Medicine at the Right Time

Step therapy policies require patients to try, and fail, on one or more prescription drugs chosen by their insurance company – not their healthcare professional - before approving the drug that was recommended to treat their health condition. Step therapy can result in patients not being able to access the treatments they need in a timely manner. This can lead to worsened symptoms and presents a particular challenge for patients suffering from life-threatening or chronic diseases. 1 in 3 cancer patients and caregivers report experiencing delays in cancer care and a majority of physicians report delays in care due to policies like step therapy.

S3533/A1825 would reform the step therapy process by simply establishing a basic framework for when it is medically appropriate to exempt patients from step therapy, as well as creating an exceptions process that is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers.

Step therapy reform will:



- Ensure step therapy protocols are based on widely accepted medical and clinical practice guidelines.
- Create a clear and expeditious process to request a medical exception and requiring a response by the patient's health plan for non-emergency and emergency situations.
- Provides certain circumstances for a patient to override the step therapy protocol when the drug required under the step therapy protocol is:
 - 1) contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction of physical or mental harm
 - 2) is expected to be ineffective
 - 3) was previously tried and discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect, or an adverse event
 - 4) is not in the best interest of the patient based on medical necessity or
 - 5) if the patient is currently stable on a medication prescribed by their healthcare provider.

The State Legislature must pass step therapy reform (S3533/A1825). Reforming step therapy means ensuring that it is safe for patients, clinically grounded, and transparent to patients and health care providers.

For more information, contact: Quinton Law, New Jersey Government Relations Director ACS CAN
Quinton.Law@cancer.org/609-410-5214

ACS CAN is making cancer a top priority for public officials and candidates at the federal, state, and local levels. ACS CAN empowers advocates across the country to make their voices heard and influence evidence-based public policy change as well as legislative and regulatory solutions that will reduce the cancer burden. As the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN is critical to the fight for a world without cancer. For more information, please visit www.fightcancer.org.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network | 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 503 | Washington, DC 20005

 @ACSCAN  @ACSCAN | fightcancer.org