



2019 State Advocacy Priorities

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (the Foundation) continues to be the leader in research, advocacy, and patient support for those living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD).

Access to Care

The Foundation supports efforts that protect a patient's access to safe and effective medicines, including biologics and biosimilars.

Step therapy reform

Seeking to strengthen access to care by providing exceptions for patients to be exempt from step therapy when protocols are determined not to be medically appropriate.

- Step therapy protocols require a patient to 'fail first' on one or more insurer-preferred medications, which can and has resulted in worsened health outcomes for IBD patients.

Limiting out-of-pocket costs

Supporting policies which limit the maximum co-insurance out-of-pocket expenses for individuals.

- Cost is the greatest barrier to quality care for patients with IBD, with high costs decreasing patient utilization of necessary medications and leading to sub-optimal health outcomes.

Protecting shared-decision making

Advocating for protections which safeguard shared-decision making through notifying the provider and patient of any substitution of a medication from the prescribed product.

- Patients and their providers through shared decision-making should determine the most appropriate treatment.

Restroom Access Act

Many IBD patients have to worry about whether or not they have access to a restroom when in public. The Foundation supports and empowers volunteers to be champions of legislation which will allow for an IBD patient's emergency access to an employee-only restroom.