Michigan for Patient Access

Protect Patient Access To Critical Prescription Medications

Pass H.B. 5339 to Protect Michiganders from Harmful Step Therapy Protocols

The Problem: Patients Can't Access Their Medication

Step therapy, also known as "Fail First," is a harmful tactic used by health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) that requires patients to try one or more prescription medications chosen by the insurer or PBM before they can access the treatment prescribed by their healthcare provider.

Step therapy undermines the patient-provider relationship by limiting the ability of the healthcare provider to build a personalized health treatment plan for their patient.

The step therapy appeals process is difficult to navigate and time consuming, as patients and their providers can wait for weeks or months, often leading to medical setbacks that threaten patient health.

Patient Impact: Fail First Harms Patient Outcomes

For patients living with serious or chronic illnesses, prolonging ineffective treatment – and delaying access to the right treatment – can result in increased disease activity, loss of function, and possible irreversible progression of their condition.

Patients who face step therapy may require additional visits to the doctor, laboratory tests, and even invasive procedures like surgery.

89% Agreement

89% of physicians believe that step-therapy requirements prevent patients with autoimmune diseases from receiving the most innovative prescription therapies.

40% Abandonment

40% of patients who experience step therapy stopped taking medication because it did not help.

20% Time Lost

Pharmacists spent at least 20% of their time managing denied medications because of step therapy.

Solution: Pass H.B. 5339 To Protect Patient Access To Treatment

Championed by Representative Mike McFall, H.B. 5339 will ensure step therapy protocols are based on widely accepted medical and clinical guidelines.

H.B. 5339 will create an accessible and convenient way for providers to request a medical exception for their patient and establish a clear and expedited process for insurers and PBMs to respond so that treatment is not delayed.

Michigan For Patient Access

A Coalition Dedicated to Protecting Michiganders from Harmful Fail First Policies

Michigan-Based and National Organizations Representing Patients and Their Providers Support H.B. 5339 to Protect Patient Access to Critical Treatments

36 States Have Taken Action to Address Step Therapy

Now It's Time For Michigan To Act

