

Common Access Barriers in Gout

Access barriers shouldn't stand in the way of gout patients managing their disease.

Gout is a debilitating, yet manageable disease. Treatments are available to help patients regain their quality of life. But sometimes health plans can stand in the way of access – and a patient's relationship with their clinician.



PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is a common barrier where insurance companies must preapprove a prescribed medication, procedure or test before a patient can get coverage.

It creates challenges for both patients and health care providers and leaves patients:

- Waiting weeks or even months to access the treatment their clinician prescribed
- Frustrated and discouraged as they wait for treatment
- Dealing with unnecessary pain and worsening symptoms from their gout



STEP THERAPY

Step therapy, or “fail first,” requires patients to try an insurer-preferred medication to prove it doesn't work for them before they can access the treatment their provider prescribed.

Step therapy can:

- Delay care through excessive steps
- Allow gout symptoms to worsen while patients “fail first” on certain treatments
- Increase costs due to additional lab tests, clinic visits and trips to the ER





COPAY ACCUMULATOR PROGRAMS

Copay accumulator programs allow patients to use copay assistance, but do not apply the value of that assistance to a patient's deductible. This leaves patients with unexpected costs after their assistance runs out.

This process can result in patients:

- Paying hefty out-of-pocket bills that they may not be able to afford or were not prepared for
- Abandoning treatment
- Experiencing worsening gout symptoms due to the lack of additional treatment options



NON-MEDICAL SWITCHING

Non-medical switching happens when insurers push stable patients off of their current medication and onto one that's less expensive for the insurer.

This can cause patients to face:

- New side effects or re-emerging symptoms
- Increased trips to the hospital or ER to manage their gout
- Significant impacts to their work and family life

Gout patients need timely access to treatment.

 ALLIANCE FOR
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