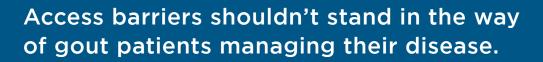
# **Common Access Barriers in Gout**



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.



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