May 13, 2019

Members of the Senate
State of Delaware
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901


Members of the Senate:

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit, voluntary health agency dedicated to curing psoriatic disease and improving the lives of those affected. The Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 8.3 million Americans and estimated 24,500 Delaware residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Step therapy, also known as ‘fail first’, is a health insurance mandate that is intended to control spending on prescription drugs. This tool requires patients to ‘fail first’, often multiple times, on certain medications before they are able to receive the treatment originally prescribed by their physician. All too often, this delays access to optimal therapy, while potentially exacerbating a patient’s condition.

As a systemic disease associated with life-altering symptoms, the timely treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis is of the utmost importance when managing long-term patient health. The Medical Board of the National Psoriasis Foundation recognizes the insurance companies’ need to keep costs down. However, the best interests of the patient must be the priority for both physicians and insurers alike.

The legislation before you ensures step therapy is based on the most current clinical data and that it is available to the consumer in a transparent manner. Furthermore, it outlines clear and concise exceptions to the step therapy protocols based on medical necessity. This legislation, which is not a ban, strikes a fair balance between cost containment and health of the patient.

When considering HB 105 (Minor-Brown) we ask that you support this legislation and vote in favor of its passage. We appreciate your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Randy Beranek
President and CEO