



Our Mission: To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

April 9th, 2019

Governor Doug Ducey
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Sign HB 2166- insurance; cost-sharing; calculation

Dear Governor Ducey,

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected. The NPF is the leading patient advocacy group for more than 8.3 million Americans and the roughly 174,340 Arizona residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support and encourage your signature for HB 2166, relating to prescription drug benefits and cost sharing.

Non-treatment and under treatment of psoriatic disease remains a significant problem as health benefit plan's cost sharing leave many treatments unaffordable. A 2018 study of data collected from NPF surveys found that over 42% of patients spent more than \$100 per month toward cost-sharing obligations. When facing high out-of-pocket costs, patients do not use their medications appropriately; skipping doses in order to save money or abandoning treatment altogether. According to several studies, prescription abandonment rates increase significantly when cost-sharing exceeds \$100.¹

In an effort to maintain their health and quality of life, many patients seek financial assistance programs. A 2018 NPF study showed 54% of patients with psoriatic disease utilized copay assistance programs. A common misconception is that these programs unnecessarily push patients towards high-cost drugs. However, these programs often pay for treatments that do not have a therapeutically equivalent product. A recent IQVIA study on medications with coupon programs show about 0.4% of commercial transactions are patients using coupons for brand products with an available generic on the market.²

With the passage of HB 2166, a pharmacy benefit must calculate contributions paid by the enrollee or on behalf of them towards the out-of-pocket maximum helping ease the financial burden many patients living with psoriatic disease face.

We appreciate your attention on this important matter. Should you have any questions regarding this issue please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche, State Government Relations Manager with the National Psoriasis Foundation at bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Beranek".

Randy Beranek
President & CEO

¹ Streeter, S.B., Schwartzberg, L., Husain, N., Johnsrud, M. (2011). Patient and Plan Characteristics Affecting Abandonment of Oral Oncolytic Prescriptions. *J Oncol Pract.* 2011 May; 7(3 Suppl): 46s-51s

² <https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/us-location-site/market-access/fact-sheet-evaluation-of-copay-cardutilization-post-loe.pdf>