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To: pdfconvert@pdfconvert.me

Subject: Fwd: Fw: Patient Voice Newsletter

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Are Your Prescriptions Cheaper Without Insurance?

The NAF has been working on an issue since this summer when we first learned of a practice that harms neuropathy patients on NBC Nightly

March 2018

Dear Dominick,

The NAF invites you to attend the 12th Annual "Neuropathy Action Awareness Day" on Friday, June 22nd at the Intercontinental Hotel in Los Angeles. This event will be the largest neuropathy gathering in the United States this year and will bring together patients and caregivers from across the country to learn about neuropathy, strategies for managing the painful condition, and empowering patients to become advocates for their own health care.

"Neuropathy Action Awareness Day" provides an opportunity for patients to interact with other patients, providers and exhibitors. The event consists of a full day of educational presentations, luncheon, exhibit area and silent auction.

The event is free of charge; however, the NAF requests a \$25 donation from patients and caregivers and \$125 from others who attend the luncheon. Register today at (877)

News with Lester Holt called "Prescriptions May Be Cheaper Without Insurance." The story highlighted a practice occurring throughout the U.S. where a patient goes to their pharmacy to fill a prescription and is charged a copayment through their insurance that may be more than if the patient were to pay cash. When this happens pharmacists are prohibited from disclosing the price discrepancy. The pharmacist is reimbursed at the normal rate, but is contractually obligated to send the over-charged money to the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM).

Here's an example. Sarah goes to the pharmacy to pick up her Diabetic Neuropathy medication. The medication would only cost \$5 if she pays cash. However, Sarah paid a \$20 insurance copay. The pharmacist is prohibited from telling Sarah that she would have saved \$15 if she paid cash. And who gets that \$15 margin? You guessed it- the PBM. Several states like Arkansas, Arizona, California, Maryland, Minnesota, New York are currently pursuing legislation to address this. To learn more here is a link (<http://nyti.ms/2CF52cF>) to a February 24, 2018 article in the NY Times titled "Why Your Pharmacist Can't Tell You That \$20 Prescription Could Cost Only \$8."

The NAF wants to hear from you on this topic. Are you or your family members experiencing this? What are you told when you ask your pharmacist what the cost of your medication would be if you were to pay cash? Let us know at info@neuropathyaction.org.

FDA Approves First Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin (SCIg) Treatment for CIDP

512-7262 or www.neuropathyaction.org.

Don't want to miss this important patient opportunity but can't attend in person? Register for our free online streaming! You can participate anywhere you have access to the internet - at home, the office, your support group - anywhere!

12th Annual "Neuropathy Action Awareness Day" - Friday, June 22, 2018

Program and Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:30 Registration & Exhibits
- 9:30 - 9:40 Welcome
- 9:40 - 10:15 The Whole Body Experience: Neuropathy from Head to Toe
- 10:15 - 10:55 Understanding a Neurologist's Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Peripheral Neuropathy
- 10:50 - 11:20 Non-Opioid Treatments for Neuropathy
- 11:20 - 11:45 Ask the Experts - Your Chance to Ask Questions of Top Neurologists
- 11:45 - 12:15 Break & Exhibits
- 12:15 - 1:15 Food As Medicine: Improve Health, Increase Vitality & Live Longer!
- 1:15 - 1:45 Putting YOU into the Caring Equation
- 1:45 - 2:15 Refreshments & Exhibits
- 2:15 - 3:00 Understanding and Championing Healthcare Rights for Yourself and Others

[Click here to see the full agenda.](#)

Bill to Reform Step Therapy Becomes Law in New Mexico

Patients will be able to get the medications they need for neuropathy and other diseases without having to try another medicine and be forced to "fail first" under a new bill that was signed into law in February by Governor Martinez that would place reasonable limits on the practice known as

On March 16 CSL Behring announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Hizentra® (Immune Globulin Subcutaneous [Human] 20% Liquid) as the first and only subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) for the treatment of chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) as maintenance therapy to prevent relapse of neuromuscular disability and impairment. The approval was based on data from the Phase III PATH (Polyneuropathy And Treatment with Hizentra) study, which is the largest controlled clinical study in CIDP patients to date.

CIDP is a rare autoimmune disorder that affects the peripheral nerves and may cause permanent nerve damage. "This new FDA approval for Hizentra marks a pivotal milestone for patients struggling with the disabling neurological effects of CIDP," said Dr. Andrew Cuthbertson, Chief Scientific Officer and R&D Director, CSL Limited. "As the first and only subcutaneous immunoglobulin therapy approved to treat CIDP, and studied in the largest controlled clinical trial for CIDP, Hizentra offers patients a more convenient treatment option with proven efficacy and the flexibility and freedom to self-infuse at home."

In CIDP, the myelin sheath, or the protective covering of the nerves, is damaged, which may result in numbness or tingling, muscle weakness, fatigue, and other symptoms. The effects of CIDP can worsen over time, leading to significant activity limitations and a decreased quality of life. Approximately 30 percent of CIDP patients will progress to wheelchair dependence if not treated. "As a practicing neurologist treating patients with CIDP, I am excited to have a safe and effective subcutaneous treatment option to offer my patients who are interested in more treatment flexibility and control in their busy lives," said Dr. Todd Levine, Phoenix Neurological

"Step Therapy."

The new law reforms the process that forces patients to try drugs that insurance companies choose, making patients "fail first" before the patient gets to use the medicine that their doctor originally prescribed. The law places limits on this practice and help get the right medicine to patients faster.

This is the first New Mexico law to reform the practice of insurance companies requiring a "fail first" procedure before patients can get the prescriptions written by doctors. Drugs prescribed by doctors and used to combat serious diseases such as neuropathy, cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, epilepsy, or rheumatoid arthritis are routinely denied by insurance companies under Step Therapy and patients are forced to try a less effective drug until it fails before getting approval to use the drug prescribed by the doctor.

The reform of the Step Therapy legislation was backed by numerous groups, including the Neuropathy Action Foundation, AARP of New Mexico, American Medical Association, Albuquerque Center for Rheumatology, Alliance for Patient Access, American Academy of Dermatology, American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, Cancer Support Community, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Epilepsy Foundation, Global Healthy Living Foundation, Hemophilia Federation of America, International Pain Foundation, March of Dimes, National Eczema Association, National Infusion Center Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Psoriasis Foundation, New Mexico Academy of Physician Assistant's, New Mexico Cancer Center, New Mexico Medical Society, New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association, and Sangre de Oro, Inc.

New Mexico joins more than a dozen other states that have passed laws to limit or reform Step Therapy, including Texas, New York, Iowa, Indiana, West Virginia, and Connecticut, and many more are considering legislation currently.

The new law requires insurers to base medication decisions on strict guidelines, allow patients to take the prescribed drug if the clinical characteristics of the insurer's drug are known to be ineffective, and exempt patients who have already proven to be stable on the prescribed drug.

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Stay Connected with the Neuropathy Action

Associates. For more information about Hizentra, including the U.S. prescribing information, visit www.hizentra.com.

Foundation



Neuropathy Action Foundation
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