

# AWIR

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## Advocacy

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# So what is Advocacy?

- American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition defines this as:
- The act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending a cause or course of action.



# Approaching advocacy

- **AWIR** is a national group but medicine is practiced one patient in one clinic or moment of time in one place.
- The affects on that one patient and that one provider ripple outward.





- So the first topic or question each of you needs to consider is ...
- Do you focus on:
- National issues
- State issues
- Research issues
- Training issues

- To start, focus Advocacy efforts on:

- Patients
- Providers
- Trainees
- Chose one issue you are passionate about and work on that!





*"You can reduce your copay if you eat lots of chicken soup."*

# Advocacy topics: Patients

- Suggested initial topics:
  - Access to treatment options
  - Access to physicians
  - Access to appropriate testing
- Osteoporosis: access to DXA and reimbursement for these.
- Fail first policies
- Tier 4 pricing
- Step Therapy
- Others....



# Advocacy for providers

- ASP +6% - taking us back to that from the sequester
- Standardized PA forms
- Compounding issues – an issue in Ohio right now
- Others

# Where can you go, how to start

- Get involved in your state rheumatology group!
- Support RheumPac
- Write emails to your senators and congressional representatives on a state or national level.
  - ACR has a wonderful website with links





*"I'm sorry, but your HMO will pay for a pound of cure, but not an ounce of prevention."*

• Questions?