AWIR

Advocacy

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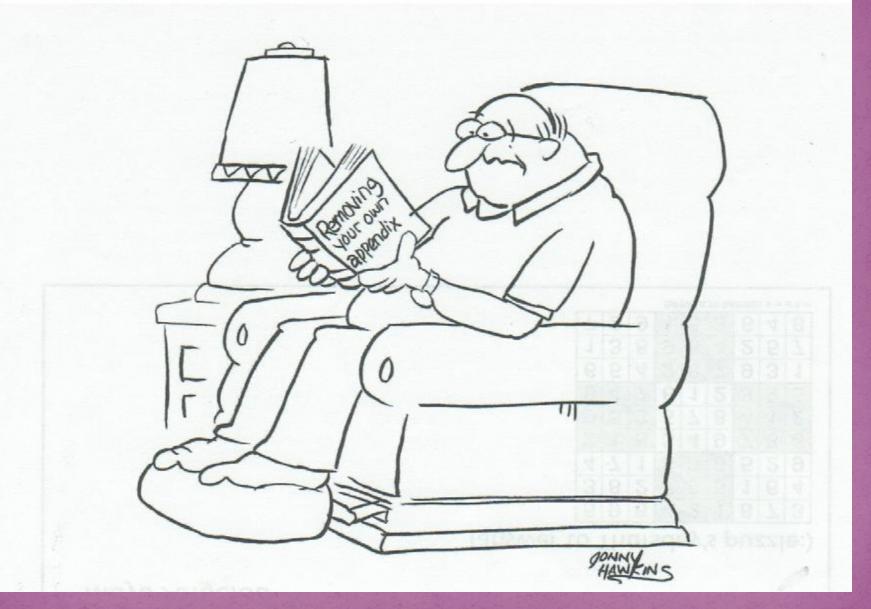
So what is Advocacy?

- 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?