

AWIR Advocates



2022

Achievement & Activities



Speaker Disclosure

Gwenesta Melton, MD

NONE

Stephanie Ott, MD

NONE

Advocacy Objectives

1. Understand state and federal policy issues of impact to rheumatology practices and patients.
2. Learn best practices for supporting or opposing policy issues of impact.
3. Engage in advocacy to preserve the longevity for the practice of rheumatology



Political Environment

Congress


CMS

States Sessions

Payer Policies



Step Therapy

A purple circular graphic containing a white spotlight beam that illuminates the text.

State Spotlight


- Eight states filed legislation this year.¹
 - Kentucky and Tennessee signed into law to date.¹
 - Legislation provides guardrails for use of step therapy by health plans.²
1. Requires that the protocol be based on clinical guidelines and provides for minimum conflict of interest standards.
 2. Allows prescribers to override the protocol under certain circumstances.
 3. Requires expedient responses to exception requests.

1. Home: BGOV. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>

2. Daley, & Valanos. (2022, June). *State legislation on health overview*. <https://hhs.com>



Copay Accumulators



State Spotlight

- AWIR participates as a member of the All Copays Count Coalition
- 17 states filed legislation so far this year¹
- 12 states have laws on the books (AR, AZ, CT, GA, IL, KY, LA, NC, OK, TN, VA, WV, Puerto Rico)¹
- ME & WA had laws signed this year.¹
- Legislation prohibits use of accumulator programs in state regulated plans.²
- Some states have opted to include a carveout allowing use of an accumulator program if a generic equivalent is available.
- Some states clarifying that patients must pay IRS minimum deductible for HAS eligible HDHP out of their own pocket.

1. Home: BGOV. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>

2. Daley, & Valanos. (2022, June). *State legislation on health overview*. <https://hhs.com>



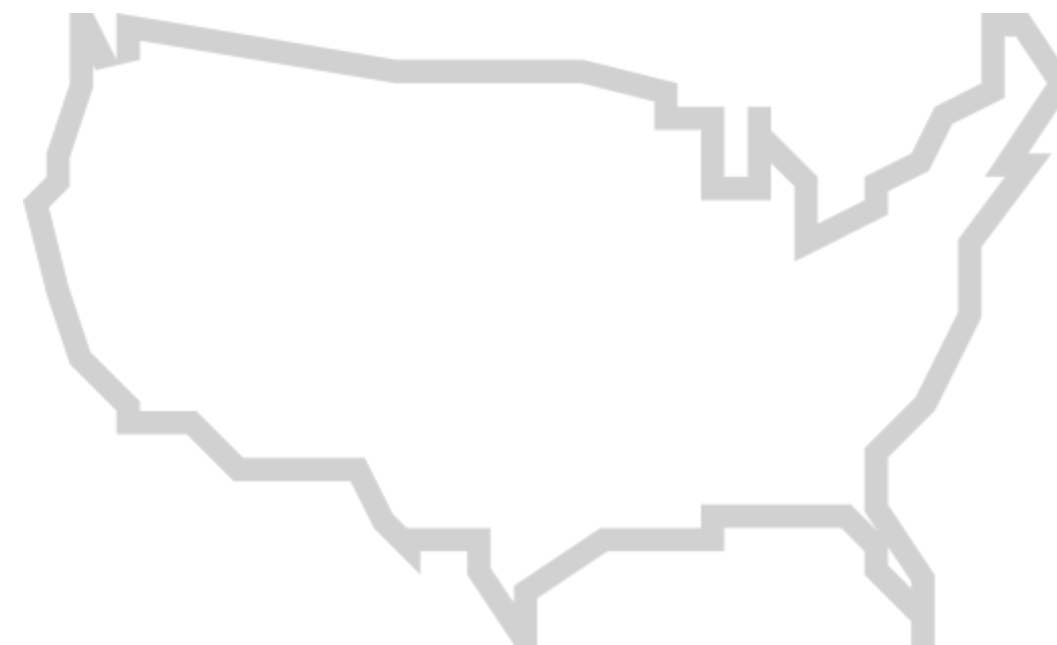
“White Bagging”

State Spotlight

Specialty Pharmacy Mandates/ “White Bagging”

Louisiana Law

On June 1, 2021, the Governor of Louisiana signed legislation that banned “white bagging” in the state, ensuring that health insurers cannot refuse to pay for approved physician-administered drugs and related services to covered patients. It is the first such law in the country.¹



- 13 states have filed legislation in 2022¹

Important to note:

- California
- Illinois
- Ohio
- Florida

1. Home: BGOV. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>



Gold Card

State Spotlight

Prior Authorization - Gold Cards

Policy that would allow physicians that have high prior authorization approval rates earn a “gold card” and be exempt from certain prior authorization requirements

FEDERAL: *the “GOLD CARD Act” (H.R. 7995)*¹

- Exempts qualifying providers from PA requirements under Medicare Advantage (MA) plans that had a 90% approval for the previous year

STATE ACTION:¹

- West Virginia (2019 - LAW) – 100% approval for 6 months
- Texas (2021 - LAW) – 90% approval for 6 months
- Vermont (PILOT PROGRAM) – 100% approval for 6 months
- Louisiana
- New York
- Colorado
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- Oklahoma



1. Home: BGOV. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>

Drug Pricing & Transparency

State Spotlight



2022 Rebate Pass Through Bills¹

- Alaska
- California
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- Washington

FTC to study six largest PBMs (June 2022)¹



1. Home: BGOV. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>

Polling Question #1

Which state issue would you identify as the most critical to address?

- A. Step Therapy
- B. Non-Medical Switching
- C. White Bagging/Specialty Pharmacy Mandates
- D. Prior Authorization/Golding Carding
- E. Accumulator Adjustment Programs
- F. PBM oversight/Rebate pass through
- G. All the above



AWIR on THE HILL



2022 Meetings with Congressional Leaders

- Step Therapy
- DXA Reimbursement
- Accumulator Adjustment Ban
- Paycheck Fairness Act
- PBM Reform and Drug Pricing Transparency
- Prior Authorization & Gold Carding
- Rejecting Physician Reimbursement Cuts
- Health Equity

- April 2022 Virtual Hill Day
- TBD: Fall 2022 In-Person Hill Day



Polling Question #2

Which federal issue would you identify as the most critical to address?

- A. Step Therapy
- B. DXA Reimbursement
- C. Health Equity
- D. Paycheck Fairness Act
- E. Prior Authorization & Golding Carding
- F. Accumulator Adjustment Programs
- G. PBM oversight/Rebate pass through
- H. Physician reimbursement cuts
- I. All the above

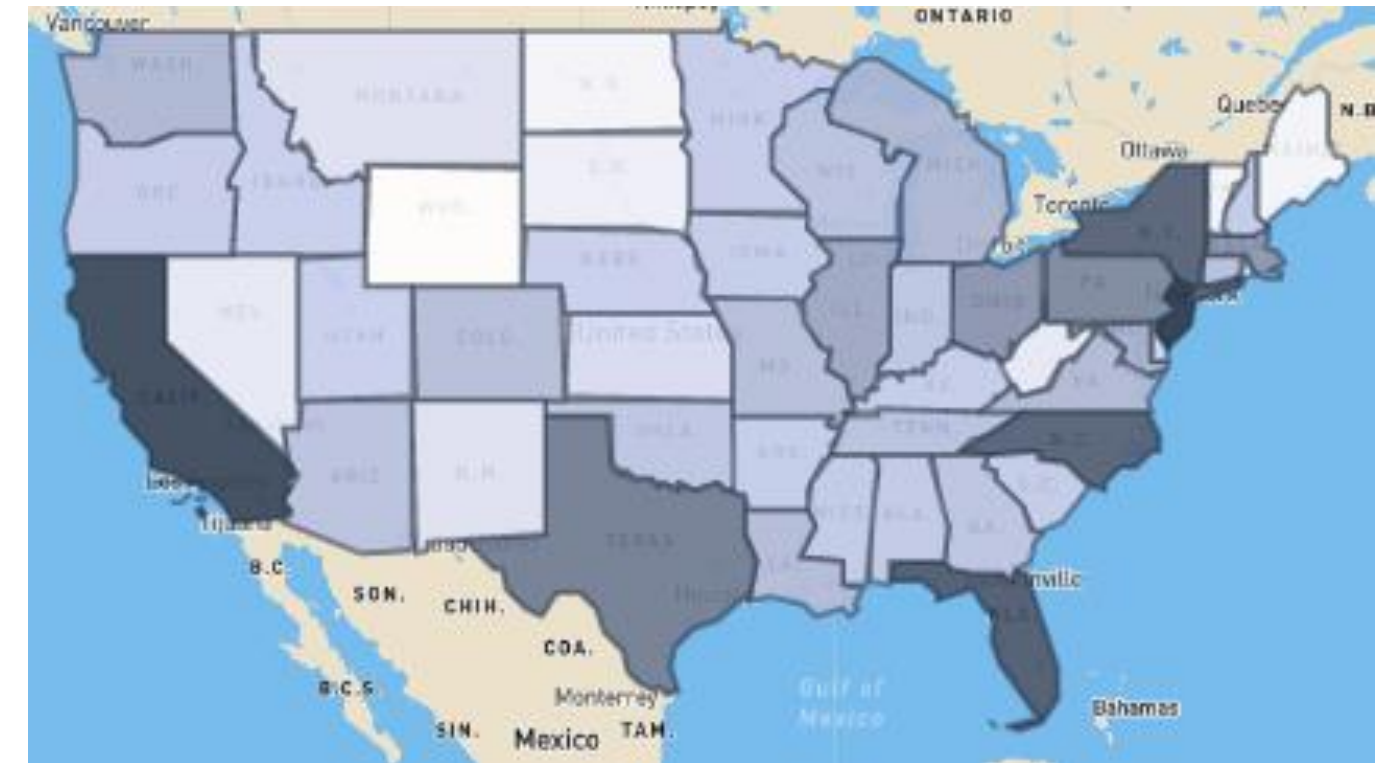


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References

1. *Home: BGOV*. Bloomberg Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 30, 2022, from <https://about.bgov.com/#/>
2. Daley, & Valanos. (2022, June). *State legislation on health overview*. <https://hhs.com>