



Advocates for Responsible Care



Tell us Your Story to Lower the Cost of Your Medications

The Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC) and the Arthritis Foundation, Georgia Office are leading an initiative to stop high co-payments/co-insurance for *Specialty Tier* medications in Georgia. Health insurance companies have created fourth, fifth and sixth tier drug categories, called *Specialty Tiers*.

Specialty Tier medications include drugs that are injected, infused, taken orally, inhaled, or that require special dosing and handling, close supervision, or monitoring. Specifically these include medications for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus, Cancer, MS, plasma therapies and other life-threatening and chronic diseases. Unlike the co-payments for the other tiers, health insurance companies are charging an extraordinarily high co-insurance (higher cost for the drug) for *Specialty Tier* medicines. This co-payment/co-insurance is 20-35% of the cost of the drug. Many individuals cannot afford this out-of-pocket expense for their *Specialty Tier* medications. This practice is restricting access to life-saving and life-enhancing medications for patients with serious chronic diseases. This practice is unacceptable.

We are asking everyone who is dependent upon these medications to share with us their stories. These *Specialty Tier* drugs for Arthritis included: Enbrel, Humira, Cimzia, Kineret, Simponi, Remicade, Rituxan, Benlysta, Orencia, Reclast, and others.

We want to know how an increase in the cost of these specialty drugs will affect the patient's access to these vital medications. We will use these stories to help mobilize a Georgia-wide effort to end the rise in out-of-pocket costs for *Specialty Tier* medications.

If you are dependent upon a *specialty tier* medication please share your story at http://advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Story_Submission.html or e-mail Dorothy: dlg@wisdomofwellnessproject.com or call 404-633-5843.

If you would like to learn more about the Specialty Tiers issue, how you may be affected, and how you can get involved in the movement to stop health insurance providers from increasing the cost of *Specialty Tier* medications please visit our website at http://advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Specialty_Tiers.html.

Thank you for your interest and support.

The Advocates for Responsible Care empower individuals to achieve their maximum wellness with a strong voice as health care advocates, effectively reducing cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity.