

Dear Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Board's affordability review of Tremfya and Skyrizi. The Arthritis Foundation supports efforts to improve affordability for patients. As this review continues, we encourage the Board to adopt a clear, patient-centered definition of affordability that reflects whether individuals can consistently access and maintain treatment affordably. Measures such as list price or system-wide spending alone may not fully capture what patients actually experience.

For patients managing arthritis, Tremfya and Skyrizi are often reached only after cycling through other therapies. Many patients have limited remaining options that work effectively for their disease. We encourage the Board to weigh this context carefully as part of its review.

We also encourage the Board to consider what affordability review has meant for patients to date. To this point, patients have not yet seen meaningful relief from these processes. For any determination to make a real difference, savings must reach patients directly at the point of sale, when cost-sharing decisions actually affect whether someone is able to afford filling a prescription.

It is also important to recognize that affordability challenges look different for every patient. Deductibles, copay accumulator policies, and other elements of benefit design shape what patients pay, often far more than any single system-level metric. Affordability determinations should prioritize real-world patient costs and be supported by patient-reported data or direct evidence of impact. Patient-centered measures, rather than system-level savings, should serve as a primary indicator of success.

We appreciate the Board's efforts to incorporate patient feedback and stakeholder input. Centering patients in the review process should remain a core priority. When policies focus primarily on system-level savings, patients may be left behind and face the consequences.

Sincerely,



Robert Nolan
State Affairs Coordinator Arthritis Foundation

