ADVOCATING for Rheumatology

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Making the Medicare payment system work for rheumatology with extended flexibilities for physicians & 50% reduction in 2018 penalties
- Delayed policy that would have ceased payments for consultation codes
- CMS Part B Demonstration Project—CANCELED
- Research funding for NIH boosted by $2 billion
- Advanced federal step therapy legislation in Congress
- Biosimilars legislation passed in 10 states
- Step therapy laws passed in 5 states
- Successfully called on the U.S. to restart premium processing for physicians applying for H-1B visas
- Continued funding for arthritis research through the DoD & raised awareness of arthritis’ impact on service members and veterans
  a. second leading cause of medical discharge from the Army
  b. leading cause of disability among veterans

BY THE NUMBERS

- 22 letters to payers on policy coverage issues
- 3,775+ policy issues
- 578 pieces of legislation reviewed or monitored
- 40 active affiliate rheumatology societies
- 1,000,000+ views and social media impressions of #Act4Arthritis
- 260+ meetings in Congressional offices
- 88 published media stories, op-eds, & LTEs advancing ACR’s policy positions

Negative impact of rebates & the need for transparency in the work of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) discussed in Senate committee hearings