

ADVOCATING

for Rheumatology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Making the Medicare payment system work for rheumatology with extended flexibilities for physicians & **50% reduction** in 2018 penalties



2017
YEAR
IN
REVIEW



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

Delayed policy that would have ceased payments for consultation codes



CMS Part B Demonstration Project—CANCELLED

Advanced federal step therapy legislation in Congress

Biosimilars legislation passed in 10 states

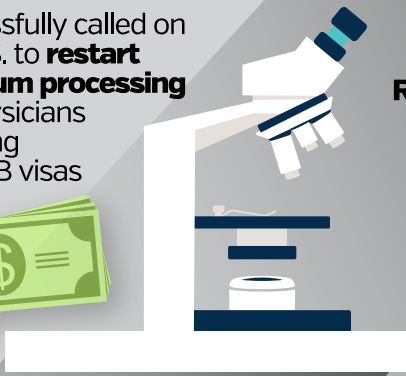


Step therapy laws passed in 5 states

Successfully called on the U.S. to **restart premium processing** for physicians applying for H-1B visas



Research funding for NIH boosted by \$2 billion



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



ASSOCIATION OF RHEUMATOLOGY
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY



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EDUCATION • TREATMENT • RESEARCH

BY THE NUMBERS

22

letters to payers on policy coverage issues

3,775+ 50+

ACR/ARHP member emails to Congress on policy issues

RheumPAC-supported fundraisers for members of Congress & candidates

578

pieces of legislation reviewed or monitored

40

active affiliate rheumatology societies

1,000,000+

views and social media impressions of #Act4Arthritis

260+ 88

meetings in Congressional offices

published media stories, op-eds, & LTEs advancing ACR's policy positions