

## Appropriations Committee To Now Consider Biosimilars Bill

The [CRA and Arthritis Foundation California Advocacy Summit](#) proved effective, as biosimilars legislation (SB 671) sponsored by Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) continues to progress. Recently the Senate Health Committee voted unanimously to pass SB 671, which now awaits hearing by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 671 includes CRA principles on biosimilar substitution. Of note are provisions limiting substitution to only FDA designated interchangeable biologics, prescriber ability to prevent substitution by writing "do not substitute" on the prescription and communication of a substitution within 5 business days. CRA will continue to voice its support for this timely legislation.

For more information on biosimilars, visit our [website](#) and [biosimilars issue page](#).



## CRA-Sponsored Step Therapy Legislation Progresses

CRA continues to be proactive this session as it is a co-sponsor of AB 374 (Nazarian) seeking to establish a step therapy override process. AB 374, as amended, defines how step therapy may be implemented with appropriate medical oversight and offers safe pathways for physicians and their patients to request an expeditious override of step therapy protocols when medically necessary.

CRA advocated in support of AB 374 during the recent [CRA and Arthritis Foundation California Advocacy Summit](#). Shortly thereafter, AB 374 passed the Senate Health Committee by a vote of 14 to 4. The legislation must pass the Senate Appropriations Committee before being heard on the Senate floor.



## Register Today for ICD-10 Courses- CRA Members Enjoy Discounted Rate!

CRA has partnered with the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) to bring you a 1-day Bootcamp to educate and prepare you for the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10. This training seminar teaches coding professionals how to become proficient in the ICD-10 coding system.

CRA is committed to ensuring that our members have access to the most current information regarding ICD-10. To assist with the financial burden of compliance, **CRA will contribute 50% of the cost for practice managers and staff who are current CRA Associate Members.**

We will be holding several 1-day sessions in your areas. This course has been approved for 6.5 CEUs from AAPC. The next two courses are highlighted below. Visit our website, [www.calrheum.org/meetings](http://www.calrheum.org/meetings), for more information and to register.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 17 & 18, 2015  
Hilton Los Angeles Airport  
5711 W. Century Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 7 & 8, 2015  
Hotel Nikko San Francisco  
222. Mason St.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

*This ICD-10 conference has limited space available and is expected to sell out.*

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