

November 11, 2021



## CRA Membership E-blast

Greetings!

The California Rheumatology Alliance remains dedicated to providing updated news and resources to our membership. We appreciate and encourage any feedback to assist in our service to our members.

If there are any topics you are interested in and would like for us to cover via webinar, please email [info@calrheum.org](mailto:info@calrheum.org).

[Visit our Website](#)

## Membership Survey

Last month, we sent out a member survey to learn how the CRA can better serve our members and understand their needs. It's a quick 2-minute survey and would appreciate your feedback!

[Membership Survey](#)

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Governor finished taking action on bills and the great news, as you may have already seen, is he signed AB 347!! These changes include establishing standard exceptions for when a patient would not need to go through step therapy as well as requiring insurers to provide an answer to a step therapy exception request or prior authorization request within 72 hours or 24 hours in emergency situations. CRA partnered with the Arthritis Foundation and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation on AB 347. There were more than 70 other organizations that also supported the bill.

We have been in discussion with the Department of Managed Health Care on possible regulations to implement AB 347. The Department is just beginning this review. CRA will be sending out a more detailed explanation of the bill walking through how the bill will impact your practice and patients.

Other bills CRA has advocated on this year include:

- [AB 1278 \(Nazarian\)](#) was introduced to require physicians to disclose any remuneration received from drug and device companies to patients both verbally and in writing. CRA has been working on the bill which has been amended to require physicians to provide annually a written disclosure to patients about the Open Payments Database as well as updating signage in the front of the physician's office on how to access the Open Payments Database. The bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee, so it is dead for this year. The bill will be eligible for a vote next year. CRA continues to oppose the bill.
- [SB 568 \(Pan\)](#) would lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers by requiring certain medicines and benefits used to treat chronic disease be covered without subjecting patients to a deductible. This bill was heard in the Assembly Health Committee, but no votes were cast. The Committee felt it needed to be further analyzed to address concerns raised by the Chair of the Committee. The bill will be eligible for a vote next year, CRA supports this bill.
- [SB 250 \(Pan\)](#) would provide a process for physicians who have a record of appropriate authorizations for medical treatment and prescribing to avoid going through burdensome prior authorization processes. This bill was not heard in the Assembly Health Committee due to concerns raised by the Chair of the

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

### DIAMOND MEMBERS

abbvie



SANOFI GENZYME 

---

### PLATINUM MEMBERS

AMGEN®

 Bristol-Myers Squibb

janssen   
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES  
OF *Johnson & Johnson*

---

### GOLD MEMBERS

 Aurinia™

---