



CRA February 2021 Newsletter

Greetings!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The California Rheumatology Alliance remains dedicated to providing updated news and resources to our membership related to COVID-19. 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.

Visit our Website

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Ring in a new year brings a fresh start, a clean slate and a brand new membership year! To register to become a member or renew your CRA Membership, please visit our website to pay your 2021 dues:

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

As a reminder, when you become a CRA Member, you also have access to various benefits including membership to Tickets At Work. From healthy workout subscriptions to grocery services, there are amazing options to ensure our safety as California continues its stay-at-home mandate. To sign up, follow the instructions below:

1. Click the link below
2. Fill out the form to become a Tickets at Work member (please use the same email address as you do for CRA communications)
3. Enter Company Code "ALLIANCE17"
4. Enjoy the savings!

TICKETS AT WORK

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The first year of the two-year session is in full swing. Legislators are back and working through the Governor's proposed budget. The Governor's budget included \$34 billion being put forward in what is described as a "resiliency fund" to help individuals and businesses through the pandemic.

Hundreds of bills are being introduced in February. CRA is busy reviewing bills to see what impact they will have on you and your patients. There appears to be a large number of bills CRA will be actively engaged on. CRA is sponsoring **AB 347** by Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula to make changes to the step therapy process including establishing a number of standard exceptions for when a patient does not need to go through step therapy as well as putting in place definitive time frames for when a health plan must give providers an answer to prior authorization and step therapy exception requests.

CRA is also looking to address the challenges with health plans prohibiting patients from applying funds they receive through co-pay assistance programs towards their out-of-pocket requirements. The California Chronic Care Coalition, which CRA is a member, is sponsoring legislation to require health plans to provide patients and physicians, upon consent from the patient, access to a “real time benefit tool” that will assist the patient in understanding the cost to acquire the needed medication which will improve a patient’s ability to begin therapy without delay. This bill will be authored by Assemblymember Nazarian.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on any of these bills, please contact Tim Madden at madden@mqadvocacy.com.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

DIAMOND MEMBERS

abbvie



SANOFI GENZYME 

PLATINUM MEMBERS

AMGEN®

 Bristol-Myers Squibb

janssen 
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
OF Johnson-Johnson

GOLD MEMBERS

Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group