

January 6, 2022



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.

Visit our Website

CRA MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2022 CRA Annual Membership is open for renewal! Pay your annual dues easily online for exclusive access to special membership benefits such as discounted rates on your meeting registration, tickets for amusement parks, movies, and stage shows as well as curated information surrounding news and policies that directly impact the rheumatology community.

Pay your 2022 Membership Dues today!

CRA 18TH ANNUAL MEETING

We're so excited to announce that after 2 years, we'll be heading back to the city by the bay for our 18th Annual Medical & Scientific Meeting!

May 14-15, 2022
SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS
San Francisco, CA

SAVE THE DATE
**CRA 18TH ANNUAL MEDICAL &
SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

MAY 14-15, 2022
MARRIOTT MARQUIS SAN FRANCISCO



Join us in the City by the Bay this May



Save the Date

for the

**CRA 16TH ANNUAL
MEDICAL &
SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

MAY 14-15, 2022

The meeting will be held at the
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
780 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

**For more information, hotel accommodations
and to register visit**

WWW.CALRHEUM.ORG/EVENTS

Please keep an eye out for future newsletters with more information or visit our website at <https://www.calrheum.org/events>

We recently 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!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

What is new in CRA advocacy: The Legislature has returned this week to the Capitol for the second year of the two-year session. The buzz in the Capitol has been over the numerous Legislators deciding not to run for re-election because of the redistricting process which occurs every 10 years. The redrawing of the districts was completed at the end of December and many Legislators found themselves in very different looking districts and are faced with difficult re-elections. The 2022 election will see a number of

new faces in Sacramento.

As mentioned in last month's report, 2022 is going to be a very busy year for advocacy. CRA is co-sponsoring follow up legislation to AB 347 from last year to try and push through improvements to the step therapy and prior authorization processes that were taken out of AB 347. These more controversial parts of AB 347 which should provide a challenging battle for us this year. There is also expected legislation to address the "white bagging" issue that is becoming more prevalent where health plans are having patients obtain medications from specialty pharmacies and then having the pharmacy send the medication to the physician. This is an attempt by the health plans from having physicians administer medications in-office.

In addition to these two bills, there may be legislation around the accumulator programs. The issues we are hearing are when a patient receives financial assistance to be on a certain medication but is not allowed to apply the financial assistance to the out-of-pocket requirements of their insurance product. Legislation would clarify that any financial assistance received by a patient would count towards their out-of-pocket requirements.

The CRA advocacy team is excited for what lies ahead in 2022. If you would like to get involved in advocacy whether it be learning more about the bills, contacting your local legislator on important advocacy issues, or even testifying on bills being considered, please contact Tim Madden at madden@mqadvocacy.com

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