



2019 Federal Advocacy Priorities

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is the leading organization advocating for the estimated 3.1 million Americans suffering from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Access to Care

Protect chronic disease patients from discrimination and bolster patient protections

As Congress and the Administration considers changes to the U.S. healthcare system, it is critical that basic patient protections are maintained including the prohibition on discrimination against pre-existing conditions. In addition, more must be done to ensure timely and affordable access to the care patients need.

Co-sponsor HR 2279, the Safe Step Act

Step therapy protocols require a patient to fail first on an insurer-preferred medication before allowing coverage for the physician-prescribed medication. This bill would strengthen access to care by providing exceptions for patients to skip step therapy when protocols are not medically appropriate.

Co-sponsor HR 2501, the Medical Nutrition Equity Act

Medical nutrition is an important treatment option that is often not covered by insurance. This bill ensures that Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and private insurance cover medically necessary foods if they are prescribed by the patient's provider.

Medical Research

The Foundation supports robust federal funding for medical research on IBD in fiscal year 2020 (FY20):

- **Provide \$1 million for the CDC IBD Program.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports epidemiology studies in order to target interventions and inform best clinical practices.
- **Increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).** NIDDK is the lead institute for IBD research within NIH.
- **Include 'inflammatory bowel diseases' in the DOD Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program.** IBD is associated with service in the Persian Gulf and the prevalence of IBD has increased among veterans.

Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus

Join the Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus

The Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus is a bi-partisan group of lawmakers that work together to raise awareness of IBD, support IBD medical research, and protect patient access to care. The Caucus is led by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12).

Contact: Sarah Buchanan, Director of Advocacy at sbuchanan@crohnscolitisfoundation.org