

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Position Statement on Access to Methotrexate and Other Medications

Since June, when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation has heard from IBD patients who are concerned about changes in laws that may inhibit their access to some medications that they rely on to treat their chronic illness. One such targeted medication is methotrexate, a first-line treatment for several different chronic conditions, such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, which can also be used to terminate a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is monitoring this issue closely to determine if IBD patients are experiencing any delays or disruptions in accessing methotrexate or any other IBD treatments. Working alongside our expert medical advisors, we are committed to providing our patients with accurate information and ensuring they have access to the treatments they need when they need them. We support state and federal policies that promote robust, affordable, and accessible healthcare and remove barriers to enable IBD patients to promptly receive the medication they need.

More broadly, we firmly believe that IBD patients have a fundamental right to access healthcare, which includes appropriate and effective medication, access to healthcare professionals, including specialists, diagnostics, disease monitoring, and prognostics, surgical treatments, and telehealth services. The decision on what the most appropriate therapy for their illness is should be made as a shared decision between a patient and their healthcare professional, following medical evidence. All FDA-approved therapies should be accessible to patients following medical guidance and real-world practice. The Foundation vehemently opposes any policy that would repeal the patient protections outlined in the Affordable Care Act, or any policy that intentionally discriminates based on a patient's chronic illness or individual characteristics.

If you are taking methotrexate and have been denied access, please reach out to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's advocacy team by emailing advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org. If you have a question about your IBD treatment plan, please contact our Irwin M. and Suzanne R. Rosenthal IBD Resource Center (IBD Help Center) by emailing info@crohnscolitisfoundation.org or calling 1-888-MYGUTPAIN. The IBD Help Center will respond to all inquiries within 72 hours, excluding weekends.