



Concerned Citizens:  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

I am a Massachusetts rheumatologist with hundreds of patients under my care who safely receive in-office biologic infusions for the treatment of rheumatic diseases. I have been safely infusing medications in the state of Massachusetts for the last eight years.

I am against any home infusion therapy for my patients on biologics. These Infusion *must* be administered in a monitored health care setting. The presence of onsite supervision by providers with specialized training is absolutely essential for the safe care of patients.

Adverse and life-threatening drug reactions can and do occur with biologic infusions. The treatment of these adverse events often requires immediate, patient-specific, and physician-directed care. A delay in treatment of an adverse reaction can be fatal. Forcing patients to receive biologic infusions at home places them at unacceptable risk.

I will not authorize biologic infusions at home. If home therapy is mandated, I will be forced to provide alternative, less effective treatment options.

In addition, I am opposed to any legislation allowing "white-bagging" of these biologic medications through specialty pharmacies to private offices or hospitals. These medications need to be supplied and utilized directly by the doctor office or hospital, where inventory and utilization are in tight control with little wastage.

The dose of medication needed can change the day of infusion based on weight, unexpected health status, or timing. With white-bagging policies, it would impossible to adjust a dose of medication. A patient would have to skip their infusion date and wait for the drug to be delivered at the more appropriate dose. This time delay would harm the patient and the wastage of uninfused medication would cost us all.

For these reasons, biologic infusion medications need to be performed in physician offices with on site specialty providers or in hospitals. In-home infusion is not standard of Rheumatology care. The American College of Rheumatology position statement opposes policies that force patients to receive at-home infused biologics. Biologic infusion medications need to be supplied by the physician or hospital rather than "white-bagging" (specialty pharmacy). This would adversely affect patient access, cause delays, waste millions of dollars of uninfused drugs, and overburden the physicians and hospitals.

Sincerely,

Concerned Physician and Citizen  
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