



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

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PROVIDING CONTINUED INSURANCE COVERAGE OF MAINTENANCE MEDICATIONS

Patients on long-term maintenance medications for chronic medical conditions are frequently forced to change medications with which they have been successfully treated when insurers change the drug formulary or the patients themselves change to a new insurance company.

Changing a patient's long-term maintenance medication may place them at increased risks from side effects from new medications as well as bio-equivalency problems associated with the change to a new medication.

The Allegheny County Medical Society recommends a pharmacy benefits policy in Pennsylvania that would require the insurer to provide the current medication and not force patients to change maintenance medications when either the insurer's formulary changes and/or the patient changes to a new insurance carrier.

The Allegheny County Medical Society also recommends that insurers adopt a standard, expeditious review process for physicians advocating for their patient for continued coverage of a currently used medication; and provide availability of an in-state physician medical director 24-hours a day, seven days a week, with the authority to authorize coverage for insured patients.

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APPROVED: Board of Directors – April 21, 2009

The Allegheny County Medical Society has 2,500 physician members from all specialties and is dedicated to providing leadership and advocacy on healthcare issues for the community and physicians. The organization has been serving Allegheny County since 1865. For more information, please contact ACMS at 412-321-5030 or acms@acms.org.