Oregon is the **ONLY** state in the U.S. whose state Medicaid plan does not cover treatments for fibromyalgia.

### Care for Oregon patients.

Oregon’s Value-based Benefits Subcommittee (of the Health Evidence Review Commission, or HERC) recently agreed to consider the request from the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association to begin covering Fibromyalgia for Oregon's Medicaid enrollees. Currently, fibromyalgia is currently “below the line” of covered conditions, meaning it must be prioritized to gain coverage.

- Statistically, at least 117,000 Oregonians, or **3%** of the state's population, have Fibromyalgia;
- **Fibromyalgia** is a studied and treatable disease, with successful therapies that include medications, exercise, cognitive therapy and education; and
- Coverage will mean earlier diagnosis, better symptom management, fewer people on disability payments, and financial savings of health care resources.

In October, 2014, **new ICD-10 codes** will be issued, and for the first time, fibromyalgia will have a dedicated diagnostic code. Oregon providers can use this new code to better diagnose and treat fibromyalgia patients, while augmenting their reimbursements. The new Social Security Administration Ruling qualifies fibromyalgia as a medical disability (as of July, 2012).

### Research.

Recent research shows fibromyalgia is a chronic disorder with evidence-based guidelines, and patients suffer at the same or greater magnitude versus other musculoskeletal and/or debilitating conditions. Early diagnosis and effective treatment of Fibromyalgia saves money, improves functionality and productivity, reduces personal suffering, the impact on families and communities, and long-term disability. Not treating or under-treatment drives up utilization and costs. Moreover, treating individual fibromyalgia symptoms under different diagnostic codes in a piecemeal fashion does not result in best outcomes for management of the overall serious and debilitating nature of this condition.


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**Your action is needed:**

Ask the HERC’s Value-based Benefits Subcommittee (VbBS) to cover treatments for Oregon’s fibromyalgia patients who are enrolled in Medicaid. The meeting is Thursday, October 10, 2013.

- Write to the director of the Oregon Health Authority, Bruce Goldberg, M.D. - bruce.goldberg@state.or.us.
- Write to the members of the VbBS and HERC before Oct. 3. Address to Darren.D.Coffman@state.or.us and ariel.smits@state.or.us.
- Ask your colleagues and patients to write and/or testify.
- Attend and testify on Thursday, October 10 at the VbBS meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Legacy Meridian Park Hospital’s Community Health Education Center, 19300 SW 65th Ave., Tualatin, OR 97062.

For more info, contact Jan Chambers, president and founder of the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association, (801) 200-3627.