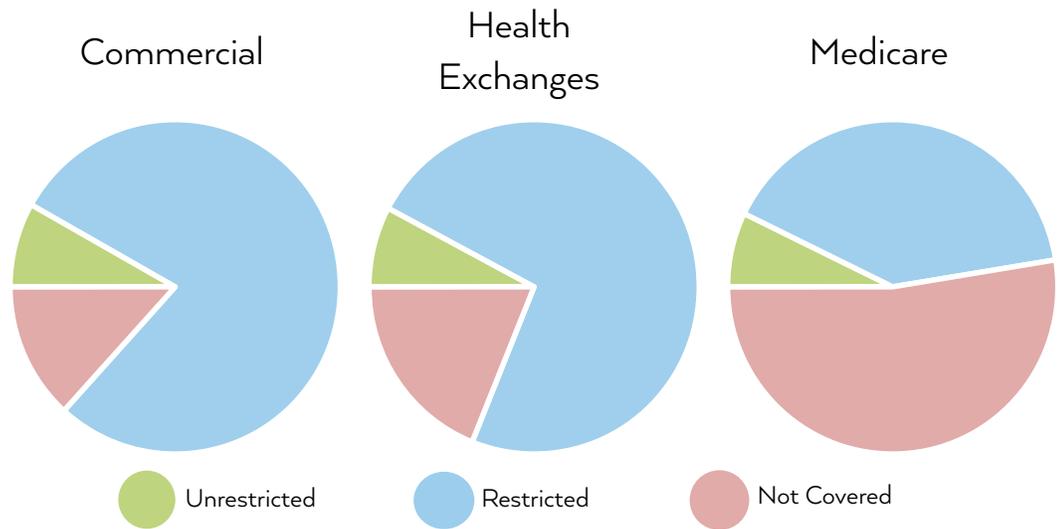


Reality Check: Rheumatoid Arthritis

Coverage

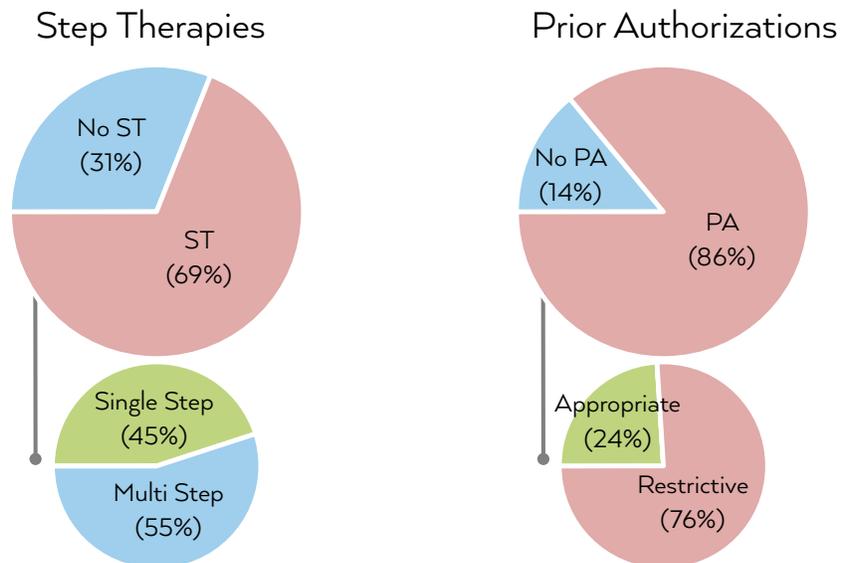
Drugs

A review of market access for products covered under payers' pharmacy benefit reveals some differences in coverage across channels. For Medicare Part D formularies, more than half of U.S. lives are not covered. Commercial and health exchange formularies also restrict over 3/4 of lives with PAs or step therapies.



Payers

A snapshot of utilization management from payer pharmacy benefits shows the prevalence of step therapies and prior authorizations. Both exist for over 2/3 of covered lives. PAs are particularly restrictive with over 3/4 of policies being more restrictive than the FDA approved label.



Key Players



Reality Check: Rheumatoid Arthritis

Trends

Treating RA Patients for Depression

As modern medicine furthers its understanding of diseases, new studies find some interesting correlations between conditions. Recent data shows that depression is more common in RA patients than in the general population. However, a survey of rheumatologists shows that there is a clear need for improvements in the referral process to ensure that these patients suffering from multiple conditions can be treated.

[Via Medscape](#)



Patient Personality Adherence Implications

A recent study analyzed the impact of a patient's personality on aggressive treatment adherence. This showed some interesting trends, such as the finding that patients with high levels of neuroticism are more likely to reject the more aggressive treatments that are often recommended for RA patients.

[Via Clinical Advisor](#)



Reality Check: **Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Key Findings

Patient Support Program Prevalence

The landscape evolves to include JAK inhibitors, several anti-interleukins and the newer PDE4 inhibitors, all of which modify the body's immune response to multiple, varying disease states. Many stakeholders recognize that the need for policy information to aid patient in appropriate reimbursement and support is standard.

Biosimilar Developments

There are several novel biologics and biosimilars in the pipeline, all of which will provide significant options for suffering patients, but also crowd an already crowded market in certain indications. Many manufacturers invest in better understanding how pending auto substitute legislation will affect prescribing at the state level.

Payer Contracting Strategies

Across many geographies, market access trends for Enbrel and Humira reveal significant advantages when compared to the rest of the class. It's common to see one or both in a preferred position on many formularies. However, novel therapies and innovative payer contracting strategies are helping to shrink the gap.

Characteristics

Indications



Step Therapy Policies

Over two-thirds of lives covered under payer pharmacy benefit are restricted by step therapy policies. Over half of these policies require two or more product steps.

PA Policies

Nearly nine-tenths of payer pharmacy benefit lives are restricted by PA policies. Of those policies, over three-quarters are restrictive as compared to their FDA approved label.