

**Board Adopted Resolution
(January 2021)
(Affirmed; 2021 Annual Meeting)**

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 12.2020-26
(A-21)**

Introduced by: Howard Axe, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Mitigating the Negative Impact of Step Therapy Policies and
Nonmedical Switching of Prescription Drugs on Patient Safety

Referred to: Council on Medical Service

RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) adopt policy supporting the recommendations of the American College of Physicians with respect to insurance step therapy and nonmedical drug switching policies, including:

- All step therapy and medication switching policies should aim to minimize care disruption, harm, side effects and risks to the patient.
- All step therapy and nonmedical drug switching policies should be designed with patients at the center, while accounting for unique needs and preferences.
- All step therapy and nonmedical drug switching protocols should be designed with input from frontline physicians and community pharmacists; feature transparent, minimally burdensome processes that consider the expertise of a patient's physician; and include a timely appeals process.
- Data concerning the effectiveness and potential adverse consequences of step therapy and nonmedical drug switching programs should be made transparent to the public and studies by policymakers. Alternative strategies to address the rising cost of prescription drugs that do not inhibit patient access to medications should be explored; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ISMS forward this resolution supporting the recommendations of the American College of Physicians on step therapy and nonmedical drug switching policies to the American Medical Association for adoption at the national level.