

To Whom It May Concern:

I specialize in pain management. This past year, I have been focusing my care mainly on migraine patients. This is a very underserved population that deserves to be heard.

It has been a MASSIVE medical breakthrough with the new monoclonal antibody medications (Emgality, Aimovig, Ajovy). These medications have been life changing for my patients. They do, however, suffer breakthrough migraines at times. Alternatively, some patients do not have frequent enough migraines to warrant prophylaxis. This is where the gepant family of medications comes into play.

I have had patients who have NEVER been pain free in the past decade take a sample of Ubrelyv or Nurtec, and they call me crying 20 minutes later pain free, without any side effects. This is huge for sufferers as usually, abortive therapies cause major side effects, cause them to be less productive or even unable to work or care for their families. They would benefit from this medication greatly, but when we seek approval; it is often denied or 200-800 dollars a month. I do not know anyone who can afford that. The co-pay cards available only work with commercial insurance.

Therefore, Medicaid patients, or dual eligible patients are left to suffer.

Many patients have had EXCELLENT results with combination therapy (prophylaxis + abortive therapies). Insurance providers will not cover both, however. Sometimes, they are not covered at all, which leaves migraine sufferers no appropriate medications. (NSAIDs, Triptans, narcotic medications are the other options, essentially). The alternatives options are not safe in most populations and can cause addiction issues.

I beg of you, please consider coverage of these medications. There are so many people out there that require this treatment plan, but cannot have affordable access to it. It feels cruel and unusual that Americans cannot get the treatment they so badly need.