

11/07/2020

Iowa P&T Committee:

I am a headache specialist working in a general neurology practice. I have been working in neurology and headache medicine for over 6 years and am certified in headache medicine through the National Headache Foundation. I am truly passionate about migraine care and believe that it is my responsibility to advocate for Iowa's migraine patient population in order to improve access to safe and effective migraine treatments.

The development of CGRP monoclonal antibodies has completely changed the landscape of preventative migraine treatment of the past couple years. Patients who were suffering and significantly disabled by migraine for decades are returning to my clinic reporting unbelievable improvement in their migraine frequency and severity, which is translating to increased function and the ability to return to work and/or school.

Response between the monoclonal antibodies can vary patient to patient, sometimes the first product we try is the one that is effective, sometimes it is the second or third. Due to the limited options available to migraine patients, it is extremely helpful to have all 3 options available to patients so that if one is not effective, we can consider switching to another. Because of this, I urge you to allow unrestricted access to Aimovig for patients who have failed 2-3 oral preventative medications or for whom these medications are contraindicated. I have many patients who have been utilizing this treatment for quite some time and have enjoyed significant reduction in migraine frequency, severity and associated disability. Removing access to this safe and effective treatment will likely be detrimental to the condition and result in increased healthcare costs for Medicaid, through increased healthcare utilization of outpatient, ED and urgent care visits.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me using the contact information below.

Sincerely,