



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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HealthWell Foundation® Launches Crohn's Disease Fund
High-cost therapies now within reach for underinsured patients

Gaithersburg, MD—The HealthWell Foundation®, a nonprofit organization providing financial assistance to underinsured patients with chronic and life-altering diseases, is pleased to announce the launch of a new fund that supports treatment for Crohn's disease. The fund will provide financial assistance to eligible individuals for prescription drug co-payments.

“The management of severely ill patients with Crohn's disease has been revolutionized by the use of biologic therapies,” said Dr. Mark Peppercorn, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Senior Consultant to the Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. “These therapies are costly and at times inaccessible to those who need them. The financial assistance provided by the HealthWell Foundation's new Crohn's fund will go a long way toward insuring the availability of these drugs to patients in need.”

“Biologic therapies can significantly improve the symptoms of Crohn's and keep the disease in remission,” said Dr. Nancy Carteron, HealthWell Board Member and autoimmune disease specialist at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. “We are grateful to our donors for supporting this new fund which will facilitate broader patient access to higher-cost biologic therapies and improved disease management.”

This new fund joins more than 30 other HealthWell funds, each of which helps patients facing specific chronic and life-limiting diseases. HealthWell receives 20,000 calls each month from people who need help, and carefully monitors the requests to identify emerging needs. Demand for its services, in all areas, continues to increase.

Application information for the Crohn's Disease Fund, as well as information on making a financial donation to support this and other funds, is available at www.HealthWellFoundation.org.

About Crohn's Disease

Crohn's disease is a chronic disorder that causes inflammation of the digestive or gastrointestinal (GI) tract, resulting in abdominal pain, diarrhea and weight loss. Although it can involve any area of the GI tract, it most commonly affects the small intestine and/or colon. In its severe form, removal of portions of the damaged or diseased intestine is necessary. Other autoimmune dysfunction can occur in Crohn's including skin rashes, arthritis and eye inflammation. Crohn's disease may occur in people of all ages, but it is primarily a disease of adolescents and young adults, affecting mainly those between 15 and 35 years of age. Its cause is unknown. The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America estimates that as many as 700,000 Americans have Crohn's disease—at least 10 percent of whom are under age 18.

About the HealthWell Foundation®

Since 2003, the HealthWell Foundation® has helped more than 100,000 underinsured patients with serious and chronic conditions meet their cost-sharing obligations for treatment. HealthWell is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that provides financial assistance to cover the cost of prescription drug coinsurance, co-payments and deductibles, health insurance premiums, and other selected out-of-pocket health care costs. For more information, visit www.HealthWellFoundation.org.

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