



Global Healthy Living Foundation
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About Us and Fail First

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The Global Healthy Living Foundation (<http://www.ghlf.org>) is a national grassroots mobilization organization focused on patient and physician issues that hinder efficient healthcare delivery.

When a patient has to fail first on a drug before being allowed to take the medication originally prescribed, the patient, physician and public health suffers. The Global Healthy Living Foundation believes fail first policies, usually promoted by health insurance companies in order to reduce their costs and improve their profit margins, unnecessarily intrude on the patient/physician relationship, prolong illness, and allow permanent damage to occur, ultimately costing more money, increasing lost productivity, and reducing patient quality of life.

Physicians and staffs incur costs and inefficiencies, too. When a prescribed drug is denied, physicians must appeal, often multiple times, wasting valuable time that could be allocated to patient care. There have been instances where physicians against their own volition and medical expertise have been forced to use drugs that are not FDA-approved for the patient's condition.

Several states agree that fail first policies dangerously intrude on patient safety as well as the confidential patient/physician relationship, and they have introduced legislation to prohibit this practice. California, New York and Missouri have legislation pending, and several other states are drafting or considering legislation to prevent insurance companies from needless interference.

How can you help?

1. Let us know when fail first policies are being implemented. We keep records of fail first activities and use this evidence to support our work.
2. Let us know when we can support your efforts to eliminate fail first policies. We can write letters, testify, engage in public and private meetings, and provide access to our research.
3. If you are a non-profit organization whose membership is affected by fail first policies, add your name to the continually growing list on our website. We use this list to show policy-makers, legislators, health insurance companies and others that there is a large constituency that feels this practice hurts healthcare and they are willing to stand up and say so. We ask you to donate what you can. Some organizations cannot afford to donate, but others have donated \$50 to \$5,000 to ensure that this work continues.
4. If you are a corporation with an interest in fail first policies, let us know, too. Many public and private corporations have donated their time and resources to help.
5. If you are a payer and agree with our position let us know. Clearly some payers focus on patients and they keep patient and physician autonomy in medical decision making in forefront of delivering coverage for patients.
6. If you are an employer let us know if you would like to learn more about such policies and the potential harm they may bring upon your employees.

7. Invite us to your community to help mobilize your constituents with a fail first interactive seminar and learning experience.
8. Visit our fail first elimination web site: <http://FailFirstHurts.org> to learn more or submit your story.

We appreciate your interest in fail first policies. Please call 845-348-0400 or email sginsberg@ghlf.org if you have questions or would like to discuss fail first in greater detail.

Thank you for your interest in helping people in the State of New York to receive the best care with the greatest care.

Warm wishes for good health,



Seth Ginsberg
President
Global Healthy Living Foundation

