



Advocates for Responsible Care

We will be their voice until their voices are heard.

Specialty Tier Story Submission

Today health insurance companies are creating a fourth and fifth tier of drugs, called *Specialty Tier* drugs. *Specialty Tier* medications include drugs that are injected, infused, taken orally, inhaled, or that require special dosing and handling, close supervision, or monitoring. Specifically these include medications for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus, Cancer, MS, plasma therapies and other life-threatening and chronic diseases. Unlike the co-payments for the other tiers, health insurance companies are charging an extraordinarily high co-insurance (higher cost for the drug) for *Specialty Tier* medicines. This co-payment/co-insurance is 20-35% of the cost of the drug. Many individuals cannot afford this out-of-pocket expense for their *Specialty Tier* medications. This practice is restricting access to much-needed medications for patients with serious chronic diseases.

Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC) are leading an initiative to stop the high co-insurance/co-payments for *Specialty Tier* medications in Georgia. We are asking persons who are dependent upon these medications to share with us their stories. We want to know how an increase in the cost of these specialty drugs will affect their illness and their access to these vital medications. We will use these stories to help mobilize a Georgia-wide effort to end the rise in out-of-pocket costs for *Specialty Tier* medications.

If you are dependent upon a *specialty tier* medication please share your story at http://advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Story_Submission.html.

If you would like to learn more the issue, how you may be affected, and how you can get involved in the movement to stop health insurance providers from increasing the costs for *Specialty Tier* medications please visit our website at http://advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Specialty_Tiers.html. You can also follow ARxC on Facebook at [Advocates for Responsible Care](#) or on twitter [@ARxCAdvocates](#).

The Advocates for Responsible Care empower individuals to achieve their maximum wellness with a strong voice as health care advocates, effectively reducing cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity.