



HEALTHWELL
FOUNDATION®

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Note: the number above is for media interviews. For information about getting assistance from HealthWell, please visit <http://www.HealthWellFoundation.org> or call (800) 675-8416.

HealthWell Foundation® Launches Chronic Gout Fund

Assistance available for people living with one of the most painful forms of arthritis

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 gout. The fund will assist eligible patients with their copayments, coinsurance and deductibles for prescription medications or biologics related to the illness.

“Gout is one of the most painful forms of arthritis and is often characterized by sudden, severe attacks,” said Nancy Carteron, MD, HealthWell Board Member and autoimmune disease specialist at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. “Medical treatment has advanced significantly, but effective therapies are costly and at times inaccessible to those who need them. When accessible, medications and biologics can significantly improve the symptoms of gout and keep the condition in remission.”

More than 5 million people in the United States today are living with gout, and it is a common cause of disability.

“As a direct result of the generous contributions of our donors, we have provided opportunities for better patient outcomes and proper disease management to more than 100,000 Americans since 2004,” said Mary P. Sundeen, HealthWell Foundation President. “I am very pleased to add Chronic Gout to the list of covered disease states supported by the HealthWell Foundation.”

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

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

About Gout

Gout is a painful form of arthritis caused by the development of high uric acid levels in the blood over time. Crystals form in joints of the hands, feet, elbows or ears, limiting mobility. Symptoms may include chronic pain, swelling and extreme tenderness in the joint. According to the Gout and Uric Acid Education Society, some people report it feels like the affected joint is caught in a mechanical device. On a pain scale of 1 to 10, most gout patients rank their pain as a 9 or 10; by comparison, medical professionals generally prescribe pain medication if a patient ranks pain as a “5” or higher. Treatments for this disease include various anti-inflammatory drugs, intravenous steroids, pills or uric acid lowering medications.

About the HealthWell Foundation®

Since 2004, the HealthWell Foundation® has helped more than 100,000 insured 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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