

January 26, 2017

My name is Stephanie Page and I am a Pediatric Gastroenterologist. I take care of patients with Eosinophilic Esophagitis and other eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders. I also follow patients with FPIES (food protein induced enterocolitis syndrome) and short bowel syndrome. I am a proponent for bill HB 2103 and am appearing on behalf of my patients.

Eosinophilic esophagitis is a food allergy that affects the esophagus, manifesting with abdominal pain, vomiting, choking, food impactions, and/or failure to thrive. It is treated in only 2 ways—elimination of trigger foods or swallowed steroids. Dietary elimination is my preferred method of treatment as swallowed steroids are only a “band aid” to fixing the problem. Diet elimination involves the use of amino acid based formulas for some patients. Amino acid based formulas are very costly for families as they are expensive and not currently covered under insurance. Amino acid based formulas are a medical food prescribed as treatment for the child’s disorder and 97% of patients with EoE will improve on an amino acid based diet. My opinion is that insurance SHOULD be required to pay for amino acid based formulas as treatment for Eosinophilic disorders, FPIES, and short bowel syndrome. A child who can drink the formula should not be required to obtain a nasogastric (NG) tube or have a surgical Gtube placed in order to have insurance financially cover the formula.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Page, MD

Stephanie Page, MD
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