

Dear Physician,

A law was recently passed in the state of Michigan that requires retailers to provide restroom access to patients who suffer from fecal or urinary incontinence due to a diagnosed medical condition. In order to secure access, patients need to present a note written by a physician.

Some physicians have asked what the information the note should include. According to the law, the note should be written on a prescription form and must include the diagnosis and the patient's name. One such note used in another state includes the following information:

“(Patient name) has Crohn’s disease. This painful condition requires immediate access to a toilet facility. The patient cannot physically “hold it.” Please make a restroom available immediately.”

If you have further questions about the law, please call the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter at 248-737-0900. To see a copy of the legislation, go to <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2007-2008/publicact/pdf/2008-PA-0469.pdf>

Sincerely,