LYME DISEASE
A Growing Concern

From 2007 to 2016 in the United States:

In rural areas, private insurance claim lines with a Lyme disease diagnosis increased 185%.

In urban areas, private insurance claim lines with a Lyme disease diagnosis increased 40%.

In June and July, claim lines with Lyme disease diagnoses were more common in rural than urban settings. But in the winter and early spring (December-April), claim lines with Lyme disease diagnoses occurred more often in urban than rural settings.

Claim Lines with Lyme Disease Diagnoses: Rural/Urban Percentage by Month, 2007-2016

*Percent of claim lines is the percent of all claim lines associated with a given diagnosis (e.g., Lyme disease) in a given time period (e.g., 2007-2016).

Top Lyme Disease States* in 2007

1. NJ  2. RI  3. CT  4. MA  5. NY

Top Lyme Disease States* in 2016

1. RI  2. NJ  3. CT  4. NC  5. NY

* States in which diagnoses of Lyme disease as a percentage of all diagnoses in the state were higher than in all other states. From left to right, states are in order from highest to lowest.

Lyme Disease and Later Diagnoses

In a longitudinal study of private insurance claims from a statistically significant cohort of individuals from 2013 to 2017, patients with Lyme disease (“Lyme patients”) were compared to the overall cohort (“All patients”).

Percent of Patients by Age Group with Chronic or General Fatigue in Lyme Disease Population Compared to Total Population, 2013-2017

Percent of Patients by Age Group with Soft-Tissue-Related Diagnoses in Lyme Disease Population Compared to Total Population, 2013-2017

Source: FAIR Health’s RH NPC® database of more than 23 billion privately billed medical and dental healthcare claims from more than 60 contributors nationwide.

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