

# PSORIASIS AWARENESS MONTH

AUGUST 2021



## What is Psoriasis?

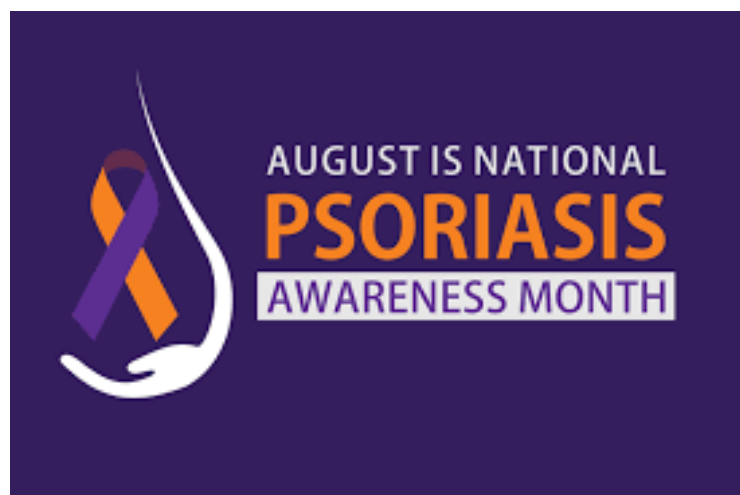
Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune skin disease that speeds up the growth cycle of skin cells. Psoriasis causes the body to make new skin cells in days rather than weeks. There are several types of psoriasis, the most common of which is plaque psoriasis. It causes patches of thick red skin and silvery scales that are typically found on the elbows, knees, and scalp. Psoriasis causes itchiness and irritation and may be painful.

## The Facts:

- Psoriasis affects around 7.4 million people in the United States.
- Worldwide, at least 125 million individuals are affected by psoriasis.
- Psoriasis can appear at any age, but often has two peaks. The first between 20 – 30 years of age and the second between 50 – 60 years of age.
- If one parent has psoriasis, a child has about a 10 percent chance of having psoriasis.

## Risk Factors

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Medication
- Genetics
- Bacterial or viral infections



## Symptoms

Psoriasis can show up anywhere — on the eyelids, ears, mouth and lips, skin folds, hands and feet, and nails. In mild cases, it may cause patches of dry, itchy skin on your scalp. In severe cases, it can progress to cover large areas of your body and cause a variety of uncomfortable symptoms.