



NATIONAL
PSORIASIS
FOUNDATION®

Our Mission: To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

February 4th, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Support SB 139- Relating to Managing the Utilization of Health Services.

Dear Chairwoman Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit organization with a mission to drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected. The NPF is the leading patient advocacy group for more than 8.3 million Americans and the roughly 105,731 Oregon residents living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. I write to you today to express our support for SB 139.

Utilization management (UM) tools, such as prior authorization and step therapy, are mechanisms that health insurers require before they will cover certain treatments. While UM tools can successfully control costs, in some instances, these practices may do more harm than good. Step therapy, also known as ‘fail first’, directs patients to medications that are preferred on the formulary, requiring patients to ‘fail first’, often multiple times, on certain medications before they are able to receive the covered treatment originally prescribed by their provider. This delays access to optimal therapy, while potentially exacerbating a patient’s condition.

An analysis focused on 12 medications used to treat plaque psoriasis, Crohn’s disease, and colitis found that between 2015 and 2016, employer plans increased the use of UM on these products from 18 % to 60%. This is a 42% increase in just one year.¹ Without proper guidelines, UM limits a health care provider’s ability to tailor care to individual patient needs. For patients living with serious or chronic illnesses, prolonging ineffective treatment and delaying access to the right treatment may result in increased disease activity, loss of function, possible irreversible progression of disability, and abandonment of treatment by the patient.

SB 139 creates safeguards for Oregonians, including access to a clear and expeditious process to request a step therapy exception when it is not medically appropriate. We encourage the committee to vote favorably for this legislation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Brittany Duffy-Goche with the National Psoriasis Foundation at bduffy-goche@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Beranek', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy Beranek
President & CEO

¹ Avalere. PlanScape Review of Formulary Coverage of Selected Treatments, 2015-2017. March 2018