

To Whom It May Concern:

Senate Bill 139 (regarding my issues with prior authorization with medication)

I broke my back approximately 52 years ago. My spine surgeon admitted she had botched my surgery because she only fused on level at L-1. I took about 4 ambulance trips back to the hospital because of inadequate pain management. I walked around bent over for about 2 years and finally one day I broke my back again a lot more seriously this time. I was in the hospital for 2 months. I finally went home after I could sit upright in a wheel chair. When I went home I had to do exercises to get myself to stand up and teach myself how to walk again. The spine surgeon had to fuse approximately 6 levels L1-T8 with metal. I had discussed my after surgery pain management with the doctor before my surgery and she said she was responsible for my pain management for 90 days after my surgery. I had undergone a 10.5 hour surgery and had a 18 inch cut down my back. I then took 3 more trips back to the hospital from inadequate pain management. The doctor who turned out to be a big lie face cut me off pain meds after 6 weeks and gave me no notice of her actions at all. I had zero time to get into a pain clinic or anything else. I finally got into Pain Management Consultants and saw Dr. Kaur and she tried me on Xtampza but they were too weak. My only choice for pain medicine is the 40 mg OxyContin ER tabs. I didn't experience the highs and lows of oxycodone and my walking improved because my pain needs were being met. At first my insurance company denied this drug so my pain clinic had to appeal their decision and we got it pre-authorized until the end of 2018. Recently we had to try to get another pre-authorization and they denied it again when I had already been on the medication for about 9 months and doing very well on it. We appealed their decision and they still denied the medication. It then had to be sent on for additional appeal so they could rule on the situation. Apparently I finally won the appeal. I have had 2 spine infections in the last year and all this stress combined with the pain from my back and shoulder would be enough to push anyone over the edge and to be out of medication during the whole process is just ridiculous.

Kenneth Baldwin

(503) 358-3883