



Early Detection • Survivor & Fighter Support • Research • Advocacy

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
Emailed to: shc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 5, 2019

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Utilization management practices, such as prior authorization (PA) and step therapy (ST) are important tools to contain costs and ensure quality of care. However, they can often result in delayed treatment, abandonment of treatment and higher administrative burdens. PA is a process that requires physician offices to ask permission from a patient's insurance company before performing certain medical procedures or prescribing certain medications. ST protocols require patients to try and fail on older, less effective therapies before qualifying for the most current or preferred treatments.

Senate Bill 139 seeks to ensure that utilization management protocols are fair, transparent, evidence-based, and to ensure decisions are made to best support the health needs of the patient. The key concerns addressed by SB 139 are to prevent treatment delays and treatment abandonment.

Primarily, this bill improves the efficiency of this process to support better patient outcomes, by:

- Allowing patients to maintain prescription drug coverage for 12 months. By removing the requirement to seek PA again and again for the same drug, there will be less disruption in the treatment process for the patient. In some cases, disruptions can result in significant loss of health or even life.
- Allowing patients to continue with treatments that have already been approved, for a reasonable and customary length of time not less than 90 days. Again, the PA process in this case can interrupt the treatment and result in loss of progress towards health.
- Continuing to require reimbursement for a prescription drug that is benefiting the patient, even if it is removed from the formulary after the end of an enrollment period.
- Creating a clear, accessible and convenient process for the prescribing practitioner to request a step therapy exception and allowing a patient's ST history to follow them. This would spare patients the requirement of repeating step therapy or utilizing a step therapy that there is documented evidence will be harmful to them.

For these reasons, Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington is proud to support SB 139, and we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Asato".

Andrew Asato, MPA
CEO