

Erin Worth, PA-C  
OSDA Secretary/Treasurer  
Portland, OR  
1-833-468-4418  
info@oregonsocietyofdermatologyassociates.com



March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

The Oregon Society of Dermatology Associates is a non-profit organization which represents mid-level providers (PA-Cs and NPs) practicing in dermatology throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our function as an organization is not only to provide networking opportunities and continuing education seminars for our members, but to engage in discussions about, and advocate for policies that make our members better providers to their patients.

We recently issued a survey to a portion of our members regarding Prior Authorization and Step Therapy to get a better understanding of how this legislation affects their ability as mid-levels to provide for patients. The overwhelming response indicated that the current guidelines of step therapy often hinder the provider's ability to prescribe effective treatment and take up more time to implement treatment, as the patients has to first "fail" under an insurer's preferred treatments. Below are additional points of interest compiled from the survey results:

- Over 85% of responders said the average delay their patients experience in getting recommended treatments was a month or longer.
- Over 75% of responders said that support staff spend an additional 30 minutes or more on each step therapy case.
- Over half of the responders reported that their patients have experienced adverse side effect using insurers' preferred treatments during step therapy delays.
- In open-ended questions, responders reported instances where insurers have made their patients try medications that have increased risks of side effects, that are not FDA approved for the indicated diagnosis, or have suggested doses higher than approved by the FDA.

As it stands, step therapy adds unnecessary risks, delays in treatment, and acts as a significant time and financial burden on medical practices, all of which detract from patient care and outcomes. Because of this, the OSDA supports the Oregon Medical Association and the National Psoriasis Foundation in their effort to change the current legislation on Prior Authorization and Step Therapy.

Sincerely,

*Erin Worth*

Erin Worth