



research + care + community + action

Chair Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Vice-Chair Senator Dennis Linthicum
Senate Committee on Health Care
Emailed to: shc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 24, 2020

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care –

We would like to show our support of HB 4102-A. Utilization management practices, such as prior authorization and step therapy 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.

House Bill 4102-A 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 HB4102-A are to prevent treatment delays and treatment abandonment, which is of primary concern to us, as we advocate for patients across Oregon in all stages of the breast cancer continuum of care.

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

- Allowing patients to maintain 12-month prior authorization for drugs used to treat chronic conditions. By removing the requirement to continually seek prior authorization 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. This is especially relevant for women and men living with metastatic breast cancer, to whom access to these drug therapies could, quite literally, mean the difference between living with or dying from the disease.
- Creating a clear, accessible and convenient process for the prescribing practitioner to request a step therapy exception and allowing a patient's prescription 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. The therapies used for breast cancer treatment are evolving rapidly, as research finds new ways of keeping the disease at bay. Step therapy often requires the most affordable therapy be utilized before a new, or more expensive, and perhaps more effective treatment will be authorized by an insurance company, even when a physician believes the newer form of treatment will be the most effective. We support actions that make it easier for a physician to prescribe a metastatic breast cancer patient with a novel therapy that could stabilize their disease and improve their quality of life.

For these reasons, Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington is proud to support HB 4102-A, and we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Andrew Asato, MPA
CEO