

Submitter: THOMAS WILLIAMS
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physical Therapy Association
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3134

I have been a licensed Physical Therapist in Oregon for 43 years and have owned my practice for 37 years. I am in support of the above HB3134 which will limit insurances from requiring prior authorization for the first 16 Physical Therapy (PT) visits. Currently, many insurances require prior authorization and may allow anywhere from 2 to 12 visits at a time. If a patient requires treatment for longer than the insurance prior authorizes, payment is denied until further authorization is obtained. Most of the time the further authorization takes long enough that it delays continuing care which has a significant negative impact on the patient's progress and long term outcome. Other issues include, some insurances will authorize for only one PT even though there are multiple PTs in a practice. This creates an issue if the authorized PT is on vacation or out sick then the care must be transferred to another PT for which the insurance will deny payment. The only way to continue care timely is for the patient to pay entire visits out of pocket or the PT clinic to not charge for visits performed while waiting on authorization. The huge majority of the time the patient and/or the PT clinic will wait on authorization before scheduling additional visits which, for most conditions will cause a poor result and/or result in additional visits needed which will increase costs. In summary prior authorization delays care, causes potential poor outcomes and increases costs. I urge you to support HB3134.