



February 22, 2019

The Honorable Gene Suellentrop
Chair, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Kansas State Capitol, Room 118-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support for step therapy bill SB 93

Dear Chairman Suellentrop,

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition, I am writing in support of SB 93, which would protect patient access to appropriate clinical care by giving patients and providers clear guidelines on how to engage insurance providers on step therapy protocols.

The [Movement Disorders Policy Coalition](#) (MDPC) serves as a platform from which stakeholders, including health care providers and patients, can provide input on policy decisions impacting patient access to approved therapies and appropriate clinical care. As a coalition of stakeholders across the movement disorders space, MDPC advocates at the federal, state, and health plan levels for key health reforms that increase access and personalized care for patients with movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, Tourette Syndrome and Huntington's disease.

Step therapy is a utilization management tool used by health insurance plans to contain rising health care costs. Sometimes called "fail first," step therapy protocols require a patient to try and fail one or more medications, often lower cost, before he or she can access the medication preferred by their healthcare provider.

For movement disorders patients managing already complex conditions, step therapy can lead to inappropriate delays in treatment. Placing barriers between patients and the therapies that their healthcare provider prescribes interferes with patient care and can have dangerous consequences.

SB 93 would protect patient access by creating a clear, convenient process for healthcare providers to request a step override. The bill does not prohibit the use of step therapy protocols or limit the number of steps an insurer can require, but it does outline specific instances in which an override of the step therapy protocol would be granted. This process will help protect the provider-patient relationship that is critical in successful care and improve transparency of the appeals process.

The course of care prescribed by physicians and other healthcare providers is the foundation of

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patient-centric care. When health care plans seek to interfere with that decision making and change the course of treatment, it jeopardizes the patient's well-being. Accordingly, MDPC urges your support for SB 93 to provide patients and their provider a clear and less-restricted path to execute treatment and improve overall health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and we appreciate your attention to this important manner. For more information on the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition, please visit us at www.movementdisorderspolicy.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josie Peterson".

Josie Peterson
Director
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition

Cc: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members