



February 11, 2020

Chair Salinas, Members of the Committee

Cambia is committed to providing our Regence Blue Cross/ Blue Shield members with access to antiretroviral drugs for preexposure and post-exposure prophylaxes without unnecessary barriers. In the spirit of transparency, we currently have no prior authorization or step therapy provisions for any PrEP or PEP drugs. In fact, we have only one prior authorization requirement for HIV treatment drugs.

Trogarzo is an intravenous drug and indicated to only be used for multi-drug resistant HIV and for that reason we have a prior authorization requirement. It should only be used in select verified situations for safety reasons, so it makes sense to have a Prior Authorization for the drug.

We hope that this committee which values transparency will do the appropriate research to discover that HB 4116 has the potential for many consequences. If passed in this short session you will undermine the opportunity for a new generic PrEP drug coming to the Oregon market this year, allow pharmacies to charge whatever they want for the drugs without entering into a contract with insurers, and potentially create safety issues for those who need PrEP and PEP drugs.

I have attached a recent New York Times editorial calling out the slipping standards of the Food and Drug Administration. While it's important for proven effective drugs to come to market it's also important that there is some oversight and balance protecting the public from ineffective and unsafe drugs.

At this time Oregon should not make a blanket move and restrict prior authorizations on an entire class of drugs – especially during a short legislative session when there is little time to debate and find out the facts. We urge a no vote on HB 4116.

Sincerely,

Vince Porter
Director of Oregon Government Affairs