



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

TO: Chair Monnes Anderson
Vice Chair Linthicum
Senate Health Committee Members

FR: Amer Mirza, MD
President
Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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RE: Support HB 4102-A

The Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons is the professional association for orthopaedists in our state. With over 150 members, our Association strives to advance the highest quality of musculoskeletal care.

Our members recognize that prior authorization and step therapy practices can be used as important tools for cost containment. However, our members—and more importantly, our patients, are finding that onerous prior authorization and step therapy requirements are causing unnecessary delays in access to care. In our field, this can often mean that untreated injuries are compounded, ultimately leading to unnecessary pain for the patient, and worse long-term health outcomes.

The process for prior authorization and step therapy should be more efficient, transparent and fair—both for patients and providers. In my practice as a specialty physician, I see patients struggling with prior authorization on a daily basis. One recent and frustrating example was a patient who was suffering from an infection after a knee replacement. The typical course of treatment calls for two surgeries to address this, called stage treatment. 1) remove the knee replacement and put in a temporary replacement, and 2) re-implant the knee replacement. In this example, we got authorization for taking the knee out, but then we were denied approval for the next necessary step, re-implantation, because it wasn't deemed "medically necessary".

OAOS believes that HB 4102-A is an important step that will help to address cases like the above by making the prior authorization process more transparent, fair and effective for patients and their providers. On behalf of Oregon's Orthopaedic Surgeons, I respectfully request your support and swift passage of HB 4102-A.