

I am writing in support of bill, HB3134, that would allow patients to receive PT treatment for 16 visits before requiring prior authorization. I am a physical therapist and have spent countless hours over the last 14 years seeking authorization sometimes 6 different times for a patient who only 20 visits per year. What this can mean in circumstances like this is 6 different appointments need to be cancelled while I dedicate anywhere from 30-60 minutes compiling a data-filled letter of medical necessity to allow for continuing care. This circumstance is most common with patient population who are monitored by Evicore. This is a sharp contrast to our CareOregon patients. Our patients deserve the same care and respect regardless of their insurance. Medical providers should be dedicating their time to continuation of skill development and quality care for their patients not compiling summaries to prove medical necessity. It is unethical to provide services that are not medically necessary which is already covered as part of the physical therapy licensure. In addition, we undergo fraud, waste and abuse training through Medicare to ensure a thorough continued understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.