



Mark R. Windt, M.D.

February 4, 2016

OptumRx
c/o Prior Authorization Guidelines
M/S CA106-0286
3515 Harbor Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RE: [REDACTED] Request Reference #: [REDACTED]
DOB: [REDACTED] Member ID: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Pulmonologist, Allergist, and Immunologist specializing in respiratory disease. I have been practicing medicine for 30 years in New Hampshire. It is increasingly frustrating to have to request prior authorizations for medications that are medically needed for patients who have asthma and COPD and are not being provided by their Medicare Part D provider. Patients have signed up for their insurance in good faith, expecting the same from the insurance company and their providers and expect to be supplied with prescription medications that are medically necessary and have proven efficacy. In [REDACTED]'s case, he had been on a medication approved by your prescription drug coverage, OptumRx, that was shown not to be effective in controlling his symptoms. I then put him on Dulera 200/5 mcg, which apparently is not approved by your insurance company as an alternative medication.

Samples were given of Dulera 200/5 mcg, which he has been taking now regularly and already showing clinical improvement on this drug. His peak flow has improved from a low of 145 lpm on the Symbicort to 180 lpm increase on the Dulera. Dulera is an FDA-approved drug and has been shown to be effective with patients with asthma and obstructive lung disease. This patient has a proven asthmatic component, as noted on his pulmonary function test from 01/19/2016. That test showed significant reactive airway disease with a 15% increase in small airways post bronchodilator.

Your denials, paperwork, and inappropriate demand for extensive medical verification bog down the system to a point where patients' health is jeopardized. Your procedures are irresponsible and show a lack of concern for patients' wellbeing. I have copied this letter to the patient's two senators from New Hampshire and his representative in congress from New Hampshire. I am requesting that they look into your procedures of denial, which clearly are an outlier compared to other insurance companies who represent Medicare's Part D. I have requested a physician-to-physician conference, which has been denied by your company. Instead, this letter was required first.

I am enclosing the pulmonary function test from 01/19/2016. I expect an immediate approval of this medication for this patient.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Windt, M.D.

MRW:sam
Enclosure

cc: Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Senator Kelly A. Ayotte, and Representative Frank Guinta