



Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance

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September 6, 2016

Jim Freeburg
Rules Coordinator
Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
P.O. Box 40255 Olympia, WA 98504-0255

Dear Jim,

I am writing about CR 101 the drug substitution request process. The Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance is in support of the OIC protecting the medically stable patient from drug replacement.

The importance of maintaining successful medication treatment for people living with chronic illness cannot be overstated. As the co-founder of the Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance representing thousands of patients affected by one or more autoimmune conditions, this fact is abundantly clear to me and our member groups who have joined in supporting this message.

I know you are aware of the chaos of experiencing the “medication merry go around” in an attempt to find a stable treatment regimen for symptoms that have turned life upside down. My own daughter was on this ride for several years while her multiple sclerosis continued to worsen until she finally was allowed to use a treatment that stabilized her symptoms. If that was taken from her now, I can’t imagine the toll it would extract. Appropriate medication has allowed her to live a balanced if not ideal life. She is a contributor to life rather than one who needs constant and expensive general support.

I am simply asking you and Commissioner Kreidler to use available resources in favor of maintaining medically stable patients whenever possible. No one would choose a life of chronic illness. However, far too many live just that form of existence. While not having the power to remove illness, your office has the opportunity to keep patients who are medically dependent in a stable and positive pattern.

I appreciate the chance to share these ideas and wish the best for all concerned.

Judi Rising
Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance/A3 Co-Founder

Connect1D
Crohns & Colitis Foundation of America, NW Chapter
Health Perspectives Group, LLC
Pats Fund
Scleroderma Foundation, Evergreen Chapter