

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the HGO Committee,

I am a mom of four school-aged kids and the wife of a person suffering with lifelong epilepsy. We have also recently invited my mother to move in after her struggle with lupus left her unable to live on her own.

My husband had brain surgery in February, and we are hopeful that we will be able to end his relationship with the pharmacy soon. But for now, and until his neurologist tapers him off or changes his meds, we will continue filling prescriptions for Lamictal and Breviact, currently my husband's anti-seizure medications.

Over the past twenty years, many times my husband has changed meds in effort to control seizures. Every time he has changed meds, insurance and pharmacies and doctors have had to coordinate communication. There have been countless times I've been alerted a prescription was ready, and I've gone to pick it up only to find that actually the preapproval still needed to be submitted or it was the wrong dosage or they accidentally refilled instead of changed the med or they substituted with a generic when the precision of the name brand drug was essential or there was some other problem.

With my mom, we have had issues too. Once I stopped by the Walgreens for a prescription to fill in the gap with an old drug until insurance approved the new drug. I had asked for a *nine* day supply. They tried to give me (and charge me for) a *ninety* day supply. The pharmacist said that once the prescription was in my car, it was non-returnable. It had been in my car for seven seconds; it was absurd. I had to block the drive-through while cars behind me honked and we discussed whether Walgreens should or should not fix this mistake.

Pharmacists are busy. They are dealing with ever changing insurance rules and regulations and a constant stream of new pharmaceutical products. My stories are not unique. Pharmacists have their hands full and should never take on the added responsibility and chaos that comes with vaccinating young children.

I ask for a NO vote.

Sincerely,

Julie Sharpe
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