

SAMPLE Tashia M * DCBS

From: BECK Douglas * DCBS
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 4:13 PM
To: SAMPLE Tashia M * DCBS
Subject: FW: Change in insurance plans

From: Heather Mirenda [<mailto:Heather.Mirenda@davita.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 3:08 PM
To: BECK Douglas * DCBS
Cc: FORDHAM Brian J * DCBS; CALI Laura N * DCBS
Subject: Change in insurance plans

Hello Mr. Beck, Mr. Fordham, and Ms. Cali,

My name is Heather Mirenda and I have been a dialysis social worker in the Portland area for 13 years.

I was informed last week two Oregon insurance providers are changing the language in their plan booklets regarding patients with End Stage Renal Disease. This change in language appears to be discriminatory towards our ESRD patient population whose illness impacts every aspect of their lives.

These patients are at their most vulnerable when they first start dialysis feeling their life is out of their control and being scared of what their future may hold. Over the years, I have had countless patients from all different socioeconomic backgrounds feel the impact of loss of income and rising medical expenses not only for dialysis, but for the many other chronic medical conditions they experience. Our patients should be focused on their health and not worrying about how they will pay for their medical expenses.

I encourage you to halt the insurance providers from implementing changes to the language in their plans as it seems prejudiced towards my patients without regard to their wellbeing.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heather Mirenda, LMSW

Renal Social Worker

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