



Epilepsy Foundation Request: Preserve the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee (Section 4.6)

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas and the Epilepsy Foundation Texas - Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas, we respectfully ask that the Sunset Commission preserve the Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee (Section 4.6) as recommended by HHSC Executive Commissioner.

We recognize the need for better coordination however the scope and work of the Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR) and the P&T Committee are too much for one committee and resources may be strained, potentially leading to negative impact on access to medications.

As a stakeholder concerned with patient safety, we believe, it is particularly important for individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders to have access to all available anti-epilepsy medications (AED). Epilepsy medications are not a "one size fits all" treatment, AEDs play a critical role in seizure control; the P&T Committee and DUR, and any successor board, are needed to preserve and protect timely access to all AEDs and physician-directed care. Additionally the need for increased representation of the patient and caregiver voice in the P&T committee, DUR, and any successor board, would ensure patient health outcomes are considered.

Epilepsy affects nearly 2 percent of the Texas population. For the majority of persons living with epilepsy, AEDs are the most common and most cost effective treatment for controlling and/or reducing seizures. Epilepsy is a serious and often life-threatening condition. The mortality rate among persons with epilepsy is 2-3 times higher and the risk of sudden death is 24 times greater than that of the general population. Limiting access to these medications for epilepsy patients is not only dangerous to their health, safety, and overall well-being but significantly increases their risk for premature death.

The Epilepsy Foundation affiliates in Texas are non-profit, charitable 501(c)(3) organizations covering all Texas counties. Together we are the only organizations dedicated to the health and welfare of the more than 461,000 individuals living with epilepsy in Texas. Since founded, thousands of people with epilepsy and their families have received information, direct assistance, or have directly benefited from our comprehensive medical, educational, and social services. We understand and appreciate the importance of better coordination, however for patients with epilepsy the risk of interrupting proven treatment regimens due to limited access to AEDs can result in complications related to preventable seizures, along with lost wages and productivity, and the impact of seizures on families and communities. On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas and the Epilepsy Foundation Texas - Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas, we appreciate your consideration of our request and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further and/or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sindi J. Rosales".

Sindi J. Rosales, Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas
10615 Perrin Beitel Road, Suite 602
San Antonio, TX 78217
210-653-5353
sindi@efcst.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Stahlhut".

Donna Stahlhut, Chief Executive Officer
EF Texas - Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas
2630 Fountain View, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77057-7629
713-789-6295
dstahlhut@eftx.org