Oregon Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB)
Oregon Division of Financial Regulation
P.O. Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405

August 17, 2026

Dear Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a group of eleven patient advocacy organizations with a shared vision to improve the quality of life for those affected by MS through a collaborative national network of independent MS organizations.

We applaud the diligent efforts of the Oregon PDAB to manage the rising costs of medications. Your commitment to addressing the challenges of prescription drug affordability is commendable and vital for the health and well-being of the community. We would like to specifically express our gratitude for the opportunity to submit our comments ahead of the upcoming review of the MS disease modifying therapy, Ocrevus®. Ocrevus is a high-efficacy medication for people with MS and access directly impacts the lives of many patients who rely on this medication to manage their condition effectively.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, incurable disease of the central nervous system with a high likelihood of progressive disability over time. A large body of evidence indicates that early and persistent treatment with an FDA approved MS disease modifying treatment (DMT), reduces the accumulation of damage in the brain and spinal cord thus reducing relapses and disease progression. MS is highly heterogeneous and as such, individualized treatment decisions are needed for highest efficacy, adherence, safety, and long-term benefit. Switching treatment may be necessary based upon effectiveness, side effects and other factors. Thus, access to a wide range of MS DMTs, with differing mechanisms of action and modes of administration is needed for optimal treatment outcomes. While cost is important, it cannot be the only factor in treatment decisions. We believe that the PDAB must consider the heterogeneity of MS that requires individual treatment decisions in their decision-making process to ensure that Oregonians living with MS have access to the MS DMTs that they need.

There is a growing body of evidence indicating that initiation of high-efficacy MS DMTs, which includes Ocrevus, for people diagnosed with a relapsing form of MS provides superior control of the MS disease process through their ability to limit new CNS damage, reduce relapses and reduce disease progression. In MS, "time is brain," and delaying the use of highly effective DMTs can place individuals with MS at high risk for permanent disability. In addition, Ocrevus is the only MS DMT that is FDA approved for the treatment of patients diagnosed with primary progressive MS (those whose symptoms progress from onset of the disease in the absence of well characterized episodes or relapses). No other MS DMT carries the primary progressive MS indication. We strongly recommend the PDAB's consideration of the evidence supporting the use of high-efficacy MS DMTs, the FDA approved drug indication and efficacy in the overall medication decision-making process.

We support the role of the Oregon PDAB and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments ahead of the PDAB review of Ocrevus. We believe that consideration of our recommendations will foster a review and decision-making process that is guided by the principles of equity, affordability, and patient-centered care.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Costello, CRNP, MSCN
President, MS Coalition
On behalf of the MS Coalition member organizations:

Accelerated Cure Project
Can Do Multiple Sclerosis
Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
MS Views and News
National MS Society
Mr. Oscar Monkey
United Spinal Association
We Are Ill
International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses