

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

Relog from Myers to Jacobs per Myers on 1/14/08. Due

TO Jacobs DATE 1-2-08

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	000322	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<i>Cleaved 1/15/08, letter attached.</i>	DATE DUE _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature
		DATE DUE <u>1-15-08</u>	
		DATE DUE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA
		DATE DUE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



DANNY VERDIN

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 9, LAURENS AND GREENVILLE COUNTIES
404 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
POST OFFICE BOX 142

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

(803) 212-6230

DBV@SCSENATE.ORG

COMMITTEES

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Finance

Invitations

Labor, Commerce and Industry

Medical Affairs

Operations and Management

Transportation

SENATE DISTRICT

P. O. Box 272

Laurens, South Carolina 29360

December 28, 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JAN 09 2008

RECEIVED

Mr. Bryan Kost
Public Information Officer
SC Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

RE: Brenda Borgschulte Grigsby
302 Turnbridge Trail
Simpsonville, SC 29680
864-962-8256

Dear Mr. Kost,

Enclosed you will find correspondence which I have received from Dr. Harold R. Roberts, of the UNC, School of Medicine, North Carolina concerning Ms. Brenda B. Grigsby.

You will find the letter self-explanatory. I would appreciate any assistance that you could provide that would be helpful to my constituent. I am grateful for your help and look forward to your earliest possible response. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Verdin".

Danny Verdin
SC Senate District 9
Laurens and Greenville Counties

Enclosures

DBV/vbm

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

School of Medicine
Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Telephone: 1 919 966-3311

932 Mary Ellen Jones Building
CB 7035
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7035
Fax: 1 919 966-7639

December 5, 2007

Senator Daniel B. Verdin, III
PO Box 272
Laurens, SC 29360

RE: Brenda Borgschulte Grigsby
302 Turnbridge Trail
Simpsonville, SC 29680
864-962-8256

Dear Senator Verdin:

Brenda Grigsbee is now a middle-aged female who is blind. I am writing to you because, in addition to being blind, she has an extremely rare medical disorder called familial multiple coagulation factor deficiencies due to an abnormality in the vitamin K enzyme cycle. I diagnosed Mrs. Grigsbee when she was a baby, and she was the first reported case of a deficiency of clotting factors prothrombin, factors VII, IX, X, as well as proteins C and S. She is homozygous for this disorder since both of her parents had low excretions of a substance called gamma-carboxyglutamic acid in their urine. Even though her parents were normal, Mrs. Grigsbee was affected. Fortunately, we found that Mrs. Grigsbee would respond to high oral doses of vitamin K₁. Deficiency of all the clotting factors mentioned above will result in this patient having a very, very severe bleeding disorder to the extent that she could easily die. Fortunately, however, the administration of oral vitamin K in high doses on a daily basis will keep her clotting times within a therapeutic range; that is, they will not be completely normalized but they will be sufficiently shortened so that bleeding will be unlikely except in cases of trauma or surgery, at which time she will be given replacement therapy with plasma or blood transfusions. It is absolutely essential for this patient's life that she receive vitamin K daily.

Even though vitamin K is easily obtainable, for some reason her private insurance companies have refused to pay for this woman's vitamin K. Their refusal to pay for vitamin K for this rare disease is quite a surprise to me, and I hope that you will be able to help this woman get her vitamin K paid for by a government agency.

Senator Daniel B. Verdin, III

December 5, 2007

Page 2

In addition to having multiple clotting factor deficiency syndrome, probably due to vitamin K epoxide deficiency in the liver, this patient also has retinoblastoma such that she is now completely blind. Her husband is a truck driver and has provided as well as he could for the family and the children. They are a good family, and Mrs. Griggsbee has been extremely cooperative in allowing us to study her blood, and through her collaboration she has advanced medical science and our knowledge of how vitamin K is necessary for the manufacture of clotting factors, many of which are vitamin K-dependent.

Mrs. Griggsbee tells me that she is unable to afford the oral vitamin K that keeps her alive. She has repeatedly requested help from the Medicaid/Medicare agencies for vitamin K, but unfortunately she has been repeatedly refused. She called me in desperation, and I am writing to you to see if you cannot help her in some way to get some help so that vitamin K can be provided for her on a daily basis. I sincerely hope that you understand the absolute necessity for this type of therapy for this woman. Vitamin K is not hard to find, but it is expensive and it will keep her clotting times sufficiently short to keep her from bleeding to death under usual, everyday living circumstances.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call upon me. With Mrs. Griggsbee's permission, we would be glad to furnish you with her records. As I stated previously, I diagnosed her when she was just a few months old, and she has been living with this for all of her life and has turned out to be a very nice tax-paying citizen with a fine family and a fine husband, who are currently having a very hard time making ends meet.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold R. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Harold R. Roberts, MD
Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor of Medicine



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

#922
✓

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

January 15, 2008

Harold R. Roberts, MD
Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor of Medicine
School/Department of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
932 Mary Ellen Jones Building, CB 7035
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7035

Dear Dr. Roberts:

Your letter to Senator Danny Verdin on behalf of your patient, Brenda B. Grigsby, was referred to our agency for a response.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Ms. Grigsby to assist with her healthcare needs and questions about Medicaid eligibility. We were able to refer her to two Medicare Prescription Drug Plans that cover Vitamin K.

We appreciate your concerns regarding Ms. Grigsby's medical needs. Thank you for all you do to improve the quality of life for the citizens in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs
Interim Deputy Director

AJ/code

c: Ms. Brenda B. Grigsby, 302 Turnbridge Trail, Simpsonville, SC 29680



#322

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Danny Verdin
Member, South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
404 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Verdin:

Thank you for referring Dr. Harold Roberts to our agency with his concerns regarding the healthcare needs of his patient, Brenda B. Grigsby.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Ms. Grigsby to address her healthcare needs. We also wrote to Dr. Roberts informing him of our correspondence with Ms. Grigsby.

We appreciate your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/code



392

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

January 15, 2008

Emma Forkner
Director

Ms. Brenda B. Grigsby
302 Turnbridge Trail
Simpsonville, South Carolina 29680

Dear Ms. Grigsby:

Senator Danny Verdin contacted our agency on your behalf after receiving correspondence from Dr. Harold Roberts with the University of North Carolina's Department of Medicine about your healthcare needs.

The Director of our Division of Pharmacy, Mr. Jim Assey, discussed two Medicare Part D Providers (PDP) with you that currently cover Vitamin K. If you choose to enroll in one of these PDP's, please submit the attached letter from Dr. Harold R. Roberts to the plan of your choice. The contact number for each PDP is listed below.

<i>Envision Rx Plus Gold</i>	1-866-250-2005
<i>AARP Medicare Rx Enhanced</i>	1-888-867-5564

If you have additional questions regarding this information, please contact Mr. Assey at (803) 898-2876. We hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs
Interim Deputy Director

AJ/code
Enclosure