
From: Cheryl Picker <cbp1224@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 7:42 AM
To: JSowards@nexsenpruet.com
Cc: ahpicker08@yahoo.com; kpscpa@optonline.net; dpicker1@aol.com; cheryl.b.picker@irs.gov; Haley, Nikki; pamela.adams76@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: URGENT

Dear Mr. Sowards,

Thank you for response, it is greatly appreciated. In fact, miraculously I did receive a phone call yesterday morning from the coordinator and the PEBA lawyer to advise me that a certified letter went out in the mail yesterday, however they both refused, due to policy, to reveal the decision telephonically.

Therefore, my daughter's impending surgery will have to be postponed. I can only guess what the decision will be and therefore have reviewed ERISA and the WHCRI in consideration of how I will pursue this issue.

Marketplace Insurance is looking more and more attractive. The State of South Carolina should be taking much better care of their civil servants.

Once again, thank you for your reply.
Regards,

Cheryl Picker

-----Original Message-----

From: Sowards, John A. <JSowards@nexsenpruet.com>
To: cheryl picker <cbp1224@aol.com>
Cc: cheryl.b.picker <cheryl.b.picker@irs.gov>
Sent: Thu, May 12, 2016 6:19 am
Subject: Re: URGENT

Dear Ms Picker

Thank you for your communication and my thoughts and prayers are with your daughter and family during this difficult time.

I do not have the power to cause the SC State Health Plan to approve the out of network costs as you suggest but I do have the authority to make an inquiry.

I have most assuredly done that.

I do not want to create unreasonable hope or expectation but I will get an answer to my inquiry.

When I do I will respond to you again.

In the meantime, I hope your "baby" is doing well with her recovery and I know you look forward to the day when all will be well with her.

Regards
John

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2016, at 12:07 AM, cheryl picker <cbp1224@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Sowards,

My name is Cheryl Picker. My daughter, Alyssa Picker is a teacher at Hand Middle School since 2012. In 2014, at the young age of 28, my baby was diagnosed with Stage III Breast Cancer. Alyssa moved to South Carolina in 2012 from New Jersey. Family support was in NJ. The decision to get treatment in NJ made the most sense.

On June 5, 2014 she was about to start her summer vacation, on her way to visit my husband and I in Florida. Half way, she received a phone call to come back to Columbia, she had cancer. I was at her side in 10 hours and took her to NJ. After 2 weeks of daily fertility treatments to try and preserve eggs with the hope that someday she could start a family, her cancer journey began.

On July 10, 2014, she had a double mastectomy, followed by 6 months of intense chemotherapy, followed by 32 daily radiation treatments. Multiple hospitalizations with multiple complications. Finally in April of 2015 she was able to return home to Columbia and try to make sense of her life.

She continued for another year on Herceptin and currently on monthly Lupron shots and a daily cocktail of about 15 medications, but determined to return to work and to her "Hand Family" and the students she left behind. My daughter is a dedicated teacher and worked hard to get her strength back so she could give her kids 200%.

Her reward for all her dedicated teaching is a \$250k bill that Blue Cross denied. An appeal was filed in October with PEBA to pay the out of network reconstructive costs. Of the 250k billed, her surgeon has received a total of \$2,000.00 dollars for over 20 office visits and 2 major surgeries. Calculated on a percentage of what medicare or medicaid would pay not anything near ordinary and reasonable, better described as down right insulting.

I have called multiple times as well as the lawyer that the doctor hired but the appeal has not even been acknowledged. I was advised to stop calling, the only one that will get an answer will be Alyssa and that will be when they get around to presenting the case. "it's in a pile" was the response I got and when we will get to it is unknown.

Now, Alyssa, has a surgery scheduled for June 2, 2016 that is an 8-10 hour surgery. it is going to have to be postponed because the doctor is leery that the surgery may not be approved and the hospital will not be paid. nor will he and Alyssa will have another 250k bill on her plate.

She could work another 50 years and never be able to pay the bill. A bill that the insurance company is required to pay by Federal Law and that PEBA is dragging their feet on resolving.

What would you do Mr. Sowards if this was your daughter, your daughter-in-law or one of your grandchildren.

I do believe that you would be on the news with a team of legal professionals right behind you, blasting the system.

I chose to contact you as Chairman of the Board and plead to resolve this appeal, so that my daughter can go forward with her 3rd surgery to make herself whole. So as a young woman she does not have to turn away from the mirror in disgust of her own body. You have the power to fix this. You are in a position to fix this.

You have not become the successful businessman you are without compassion and I appeal to you now to please, please help this come to resolve today.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Picker
PO BOX 6351
FORT MYERS, FL 33911

Cell - 631-949-7776
Work - 239-938-7619

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