

Donna Hurlock, MD
Board Certified Gynecologist
NAMS Certified Menopause Practitioner
205 S. Whiting Street, Suite 303
Alexandria, VA 22304
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To Whom it May Concern,

This is my response to your form requesting that I approve one of the “alternative drugs” you have listed to replace the systemic estrogen product that I have previously prescribed for my patient:

To be brief and polite,....**are you kidding?** For years insurance company employees have been illegally practicing medicine without a license by manipulating what medicines are available to patients, but now you have finally gone over the edge and exceeded the limits of reason.

I have prescribed systemic estrogen to this patient to replace what she has been missing since the onset of menopause, systemic estrogen. None of the products that you have listed are in the category of systemic estrogen; therefore none of your listed options are acceptable “alternatives drugs.”

Do you also suggest to patients who lack Vitamin B12 that they should not take B12 but instead should take a sleeping pill, Vit D, ampicillin, or aspirin? Or perhaps a diabetic should not take insulin or any insulin substitute drug, but instead they should use skin lotion for their dry feet and use an eye patch when they finally go blind? Or a man who loses both testicles in an accident should not take testosterone? Is this how you would treat your mother or your brother?

Systemic estrogen has been prescribed for over half a century for post-menopausal women who are smart enough to take it, and hundreds if not thousands of studies have repeatedly shown remarkable benefits from this type of replacement therapy. And perhaps this is news to you; the benefits do not stop suddenly on a patient’s 65th birthday.

So to deny coverage for systemic estrogen replacement products to this patient is cruel at best and perhaps borders on malicious abuse, since you are denying her those benefits that she could receive by continuing to take systemic estrogen replacement. Perhaps people like yourself who attempt to do this to menopausal women should be prosecuted for attempting to maliciously harm women. Indeed, this is the actual “War on Women” that we have heard so much about. Perhaps soon we will see a massive class action law suit when menopausal women all over the country unite and decide to sue you and your kind for this type of abuse. I will encourage them to do such.

So no I will not approve any of your listed alternatives. I will not be complicit in this scheme. You should be ashamed of yourselves for attempting to victimize menopausal women in this manner.

Donna Hurlock MD, NCMP