



“I don’t agree with step therapy, or ‘fail first’. If you have a certain illness or condition and your insurance company wants you to try an older or cheaper medication first to see if it works, all that does is prolong the agony or make the condition worse if you have to wait to get the right medicine.”

Meet Renee Lopez | Austin, TX

Renee was born with a disease called Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC), which causes joint contractures throughout the body. She has spent her entire lifetime taking numerous prescription medications for this condition and the inflammation, osteoporosis, pain, and anxiety that goes along with it. Now a staunch patient advocate representing the disability community, Renee believes that if a patient has been doing well on a particular medication for a long period of time, that patient should not be forced to switch medications or jump through hoops in order to keep taking the originally prescribed medication.

Her Story

Renee started out taking a number of brand-name drugs as prescribed by her doctor. These medications worked well, with very few side effects. But when her insurance co-pays continued to creep higher, she was forced to try cheaper or generic versions of these drugs.

“I know we’re always hearing ‘It’s the same drug; it’s the same thing,’ but I don’t believe that at all. I’m living proof that it’s not always the same.”

Renee quickly learned that these substitute medications simply did not work as well as those originally prescribed. In addition, the many adverse side effects she experienced from these medications were more than she could handle. In fact, because of these side effects, she stopped taking some of her medicines. Unfortunately, when any patients – particularly patients with chronic conditions – do not take their medicines as directed, the repercussions can be severe.

“If my doctor prescribes a specific medication for me I’d like to be able to get that medicine right away. You and your primary physician – who knows your medical history – are the only ones who should be involved in the decision on which medicines you should take. This decision should not be controlled by insurance companies. I feel like they tend to think more about profits than patients.”



facebook.com/txpatientSafety



[@PatientAccessTX](https://twitter.com/PatientAccessTX)



www.patientaccesstexas.com

SUPPORT PATIENTS’ ACCESS TO MEDICATION.