



Jason East <forhumanuse@gmail.com>

Re: 2025-UCD-00433 - HDAPP: Case Closure and Resources

1 message

Jason East <forhumanuse@gmail.com>
To: Taylor Cirksena <tcirksena@ucdavis.edu>

Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:10 AM

Subject: Follow-Up Regarding Disability Discrimination Review

Dear Ms. Cirksena,

Thank you for your response and for reviewing the concerns I brought forward regarding the care I've received from Dr. Justin Curole.

I would like to clarify that my initial complaint was written with the intention of bringing attention to harmful and unsafe treatment practices, not with the expectation that it would be reviewed as a formal discrimination complaint under HDAPP. As such, it was not originally framed using legal language or the precise standards found in the UC Anti-Discrimination Policy. I now understand your department's scope better and would appreciate the opportunity to provide additional information that highlights how this matter relates specifically to disability-based discrimination.

I am a chronic pain patient with a documented physical disability. Over the past two years, I have been repeatedly subjected to treatment delays, unsafe medication changes, and dismissive care due to the nature of my condition — a disability that affects both my physical functioning and my daily life. I believe this history demonstrates a pattern of adverse and unequal treatment based on disability.

Specifically:

Pain management has been delayed or denied repeatedly despite my consistent reports of severe pain and documented side effects from medications like Butrans. On multiple occasions, my breakthrough pain medication was not refilled in a timely manner, putting me at risk of withdrawal and severe pain.

I was prescribed medication that caused me to black out upon standing, and when I reported this, I was not advised to discontinue it. Instead, I was told to adjust the dosage myself and to adjust my blood pressure medication without medical oversight. These side effects were life-threatening for someone with my condition, yet they were treated dismissively.

As recently as last month, Dr. Curole suggested I reduce the strength of the Butrans patch, even though it had previously caused low blood pressure, dizziness, physical harm, and visual blackouts. No alternate options were provided, which left me in a dangerous and medically unsound situation.

Breakthrough medication — which had helped me with my chronic pain conditions — has been removed. For no justifiable reason after several years.

My wife, Stacey, has been present for nearly every appointment and can attest to the emotional and logistical burden this has placed on both of us. She has taken time off work repeatedly to help me advocate for safe care and to pick up last-minute prescriptions due to delays. This has impacted our family's well-being significantly.

I was even told by a UC Davis pharmacy staff member who for now will remain nameless, that it is “unfortunately common” for doctors to ignore the refill requests of long-term chronic pain opioid patients. That speaks volumes about

systemic issues within UC Davis Health when it comes to patients like me who suffer from chronic debilitating pain and are disabled due to their condition.

Over time, these experiences have undermined my trust in the healthcare system and have significantly worsened my mental health, contributing to anxiety, depression, and fear around whether I'll be able to function each month.

For all these reasons, I believe my disability has led to differential and harmful treatment, and that this constitutes a form of discrimination under both the ADA and the UC Anti-Discrimination Policy. I was not asking for special treatment — only for safe, consistent, and medically appropriate care that acknowledges the nature of my disability.

I hope this information provides a clearer picture of the discrimination I've experienced and why I continue to pursue this matter. Please let me know if there is any further information you need to re-open the review, or to escalate the concern appropriately.

Sincerely,

Jason East
(916) 717-8148

On Wed, Apr 30, 2025, 1:04 PM Taylor Cirksena <tcirksena@ucdavis.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon, Jason,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Taylor and I am an Education and Case Specialist at HDAPP. The HDAPP office is responsible for receiving and responding to all reports of harassment, sexual violence, and discrimination affecting students, staff, or faculty. Thank you for your patience as we reviewed the information reported to us. HDAPP has concluded our review of your concerns brought forward regarding facing discrimination from Justin Curole. Specifically, you alleged discrimination based on disability. I understand that you brought forward multiple concerns within your report and want to remind you that HDAPP is only reviewing the portions of the report that alleged discrimination. Concerns such as unethical or unlawful practices are outside our scope and were sent to Patient Relations. to A summary of the concerns brought forward are:

1. Disability Discrimination by, **Justin Curole**. Complainant stated that he believed he was discriminated against because of his disability.
 - a. Complainant shared that he believes there was an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) violation.
 - b. Complainant shared that he believed his ability to access healthcare was limited due to his disability.

HDAPP reviewed the concerns falling within our scope under the UC Anti-Discrimination Policy, which has the following definitions.

Discrimination: An Unfavorable Action taken because of an individual's actual or perceived Protected Category.