SJR

10 AM

Relating to certain practices of the United States Veterans Bureau [illegible]

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Date _____

The Committee on _____ has had _____

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

( ) recommends it DO PASS

( ) recommends it DO NOT PASS

( ) recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

( ) recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

( ) "and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

( ) reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

( ) "other"

Members signing the Majority report:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ Chairman

Box 342
Palmer, Alaska
99645

2/10/75

Senator Jay Kertula
Juneau, Alaska
99801

Dear Jay;

I think the letter I wrote to the Outpatients Pharmacy dated February 10, 1975, states the crux of my problem with the V.A. That is, the objections I raised previously about ordering from Seattle. As stated in that letter, my fears and doubts became a reality. This is born out by the enclosed lab graphs which show the results of my blood work. The other copies of correspondence contain, in chronological order, the previous letters of my feelings on the practice of ordering this perishable medication by mail, and, the replies I received.

All I'm asking (or have ever asked the V.A. for) is that I be allowed to get the insulin from Bert's here in Palmer.

Please note the area's I have indicated in red, which support the things I have so stated to the Outpatients Pharmacy in my letter of February 10, 1975. I'm pleading for your assistance in this matter as it could easily lead to more severe complications of my disability. I'm also sending an identical packet to Senator Stevens as well as the V.A. office in Washington, D.C. and the VARO clinic administrator, Dr. Whalen in Juneau.

Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Brase

P.S.

In regards to the message relayed back to me from Juneau; the Outpatients Pharmacy admitted they were in error in the way my shipment was handled.

REF: 23572631

Box 342
Palmer, Alaska
99645

Feb. 10, 1975

OUTPATIENTS PHARMACY
Room 521 Smith Tower
2nd Ave. & Yesler Way
Seattle, Wash. 98104

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my refill order for diabetic supplies. It is my understanding that you were contacted by Dr. Whalen's office in Juneau last Thursday, Feb. 6, 1975, regarding the proper handling and shipping proceedures in the future of my insulin.

I would like to point out a few things to you regarding the batch I received from your pharmacy, on the last order. Perhaps I should begin with the time I noticed my vision beginning to blur somewhat, and at which time I had an exam. Before the Dr. asked me more than a couple of questions, he became aware of the fact I had diabetes and requested a blood sugar test be done. The results showed the glucose level at 285mg%. I immediately increased my insulin intake 2 units and fell back to an 800 calorie (or less) per day diet. About 1 week later, I had a fasting blood sugar drawn with a result of 360mg%. That same day, a 2 hr. PC was done after my noon snack with a result of 560mg%!!! My urine was showing +3--+4 throughout this period. It should be noted that I followed this diet religiously, along with the increase in insulin, for approximately 8-10 days. Upon advice of my Doctor, I purchased a bottle of insulin locally, taking the same amount, and increased my diet to 2000+ calories per day. After 3 or 4 days, my urines started running negative and my vision has since cleared also.

I think it would be a damned safe assumption to make, that the insulin I was using was spoiled! There are several possibilities that enter my mind regarding this. No. 1, the box it was shipped in contained neither insulation nor was it marked in any way other than an address label. No. 2, it was no good prior to shipping. No. 3, it is very concievable that at 35,000 feet in a jet airplane it's right chilly in a mail compartment--like maybe -50 or 60. Furthermore, being uninsulated, if it layed around in a post office for several days, it would become unduly warm, neither condition being conducive to the proper care of such a product. (At least that's what it says on the bottle!)

Now, the message that was relayed back to me from Juneau, was that I could be assured that in the future, these supplies would be handled

REF: 23572631
(continued)

Feb. 10, 1975

in the proper manner. For the benefit of all concerned, I certainly hope so!, as this is in actuality, my "life's-blood", and it is no enjoyable experience to depend on a medication only to discover that a person could as well have taken a shot of water. I have a copy of all correspondence since I was ordered last Spring to either order from your firm or I would be made to pay for this medication. At that time, I questioned and objected to having to order from Seattle, of all places, and through the mail. My objections were based upon those doubts of such a practice and which have now been a reality.

I am submitting forthwith, copies of all this correspondence, as well as a copy of this letter to my State and National Senators and others as listed below. I would appreciate any reply and or explanation you are able to send me in regards to this experience.

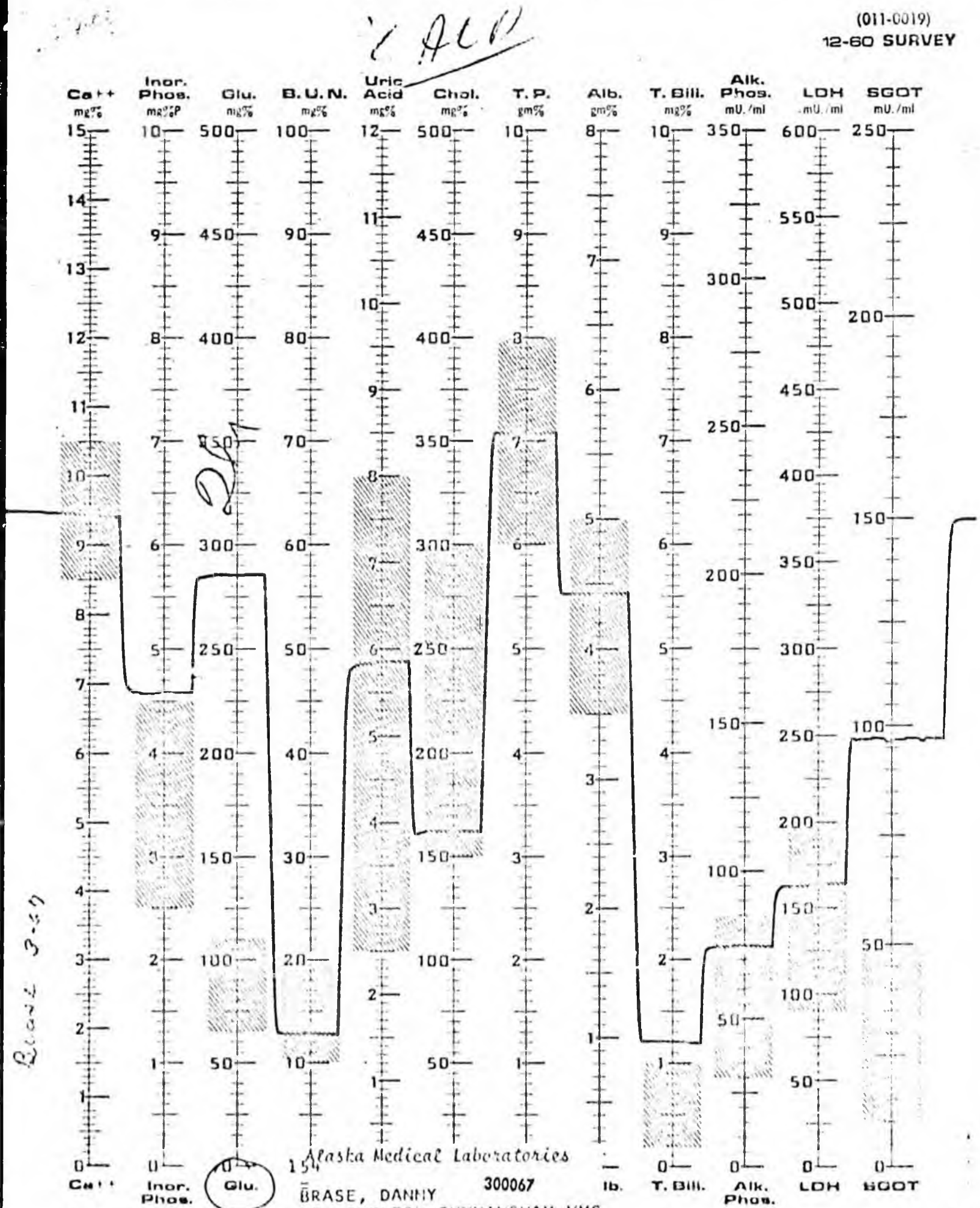
Truly yours,

Danny L. Brase

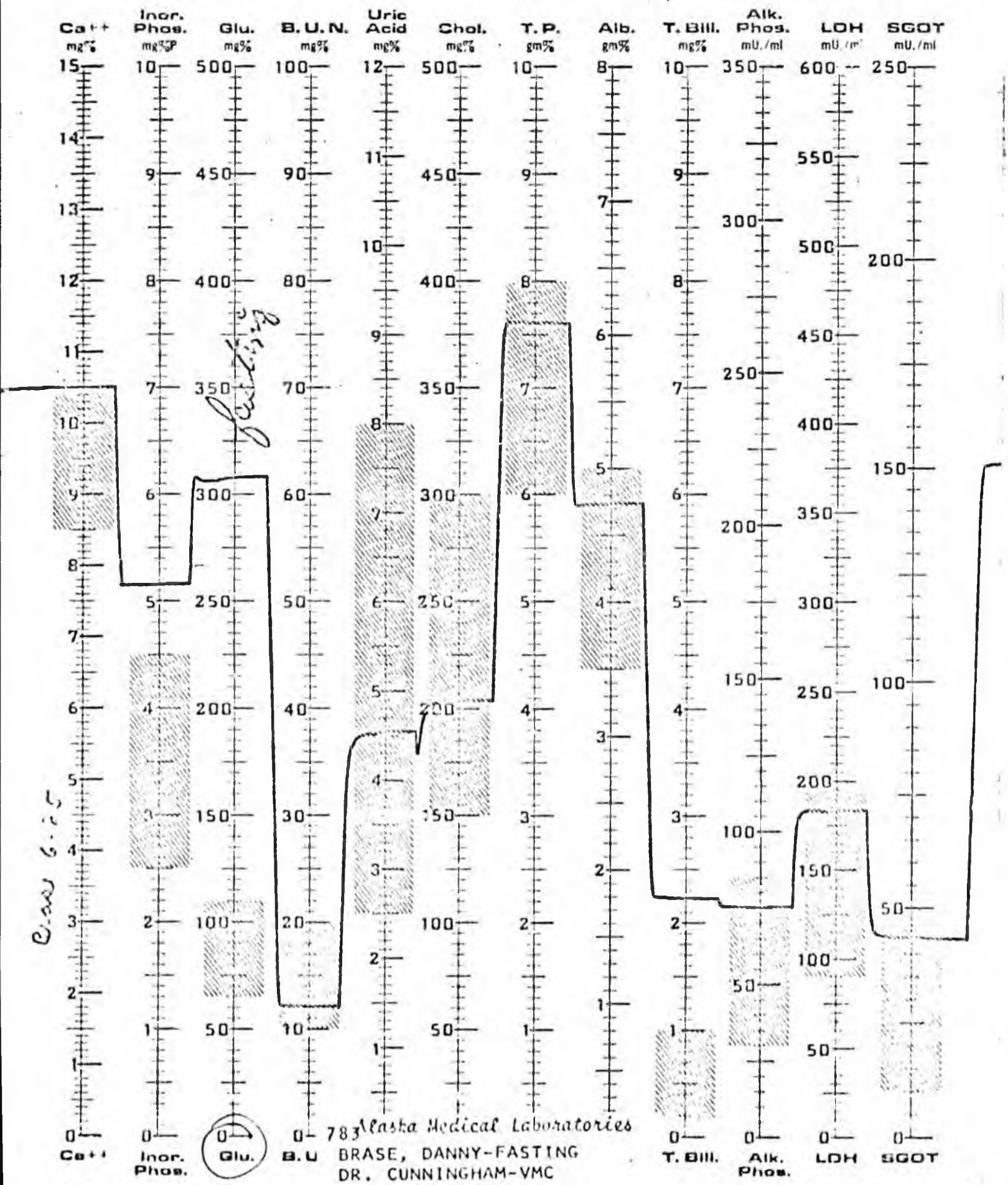
Danny L. Brase

cc; Senator Kertula
Senator Stevens
Dr. Whalen, Juneau
V.A. Washington, D.C.

(011-0019)
12-60 SURVEY



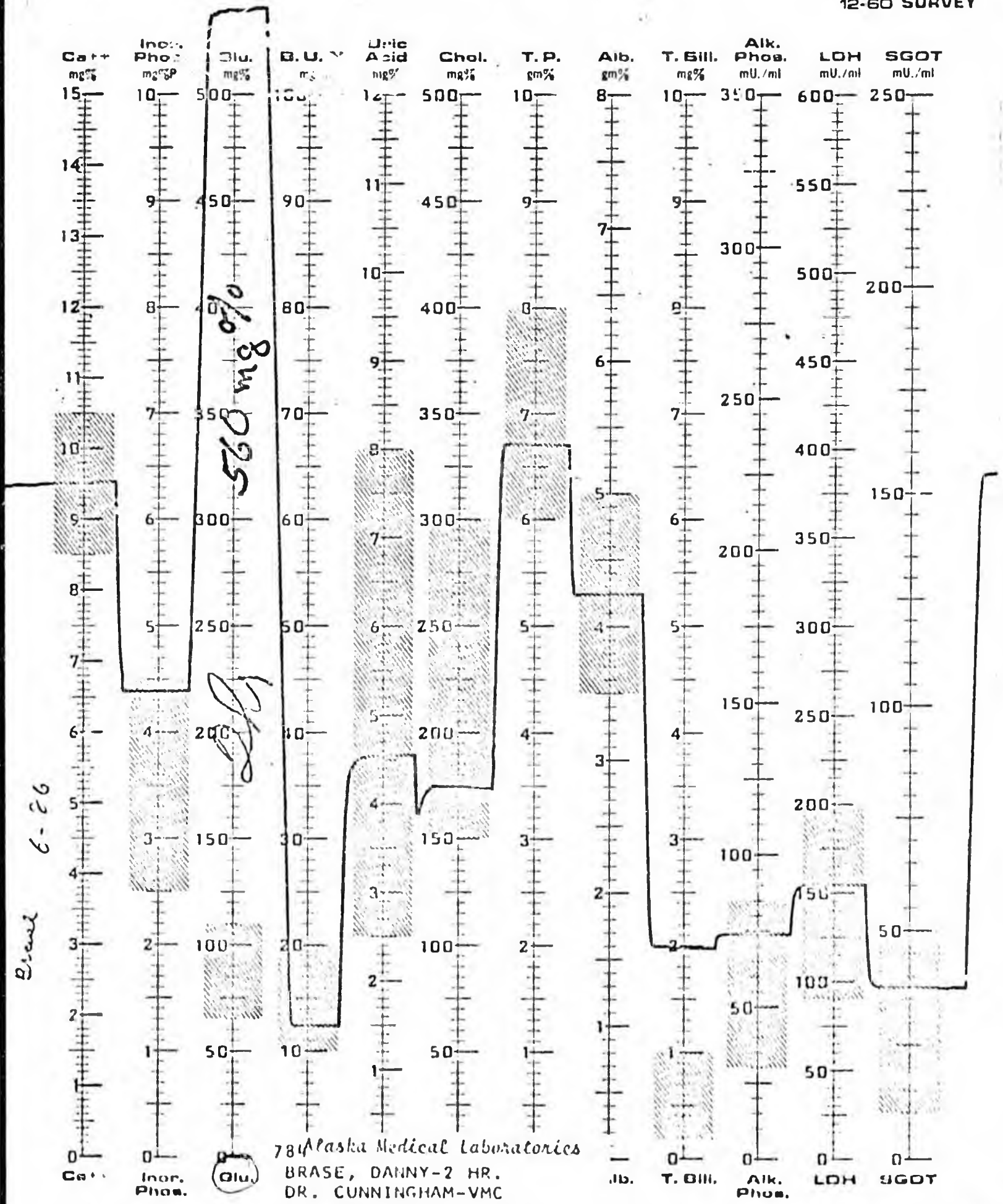
(011-0019)
12-60 SURVEY



Alaska Medical Laboratories
783
BRASE, DANNY-FASTING
DR. CUNNINGHAM-VMC
JAN. 20, 1975

Patient's Name _____ 600085 _____

NO. 460
(011-0019)
12-60 SURVEY



781 Alaska Medical Laboratories
BRASE, DANNY-2 HR.
DR. CUNNINGHAM-VMC
JAN. 20, 1975

Patient's Name

600086
600085

Brasel 6-26

BRASE, Danny L.
9/5/74

PHARMACY SERVICE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
Outpatient Clinic
Smith Tower, Second and Yesler
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Veteran:

PLEASE NOTE THE CIRCLED INFORMATION BELOW REGARDING PRESCRIPTION

NUMBER _____ FOR NPH U-80 Insulin.

1. All refills have been exhausted.

2. No refills have been authorized by your doctor.

3. This is the last authorized refill of your prescription.

4. Please contact your doctor for new prescription.

5. Your prescription is over six months old and may not be refilled.

6. Narcotic prescriptions may not be refilled.

7. Your request was submitted too early. Please mail refill request ten days before your present supply of medication is exhausted.

8. This is your narcotic medication. Your other medication(s) will follow by regular mail.

9. We do not have a current refillable prescription in your file for

_____.

10. Your doctor may continue your medication by writing a new prescription for up to a one month supply of medication and authorizing up to five refills.

11. This medication is for treating a non-service connected condition. It cannot be filled at the expense of the government.

12. Please have your doctor use prescription blanks with not more than one prescription written on each blank.

13. (other) We can understand and sympathize with your irritation involving the red-tape required to get a non-prescription item such as Insulin. However, as with most matters involving the government, the VA is required to follow certain regulations, which includes the requirement of a prescription for any medication, for record-keeping purposes. For your information, however, the supplies needed for diabetic control, such as syringes, needles, Testape, etc., do not require a doctor's prescription. Just ask for them on the order form enclosed, when you need them. When you reach the last authorized refill, a sticker will be attached, to remind you to get a new prescription for the next 6 months.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1288
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Date: June 18, 1974
In Reply Refer to: 363/136B
C 23 572 631

Danny L. Brase
P. O. Box 342
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Mr. Brase:

Your letter to the Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Seattle has been forwarded to us for reply.

We can understand your concern regarding the condition of your insulin when it arrives by mail from Seattle. The Pharmacy there has advised us that they send insulin by mail regularly, without refrigeration and without difficulty. Your medicine will be sent by air and should arrive 10-14 days after you order it. In case you do have difficulty at any time, you are authorized to purchase an emergency supply of insulin at your local pharmacy as in the past. However, it has been VA policy for quite some time to furnish routine medications from the nearest VA pharmacy, and indeed it is quite a bit less expensive, as you noted in your letter.

If you have any further questions or problems, do not hesitate to contact the VA at any time. We will make every effort to provide you the maximum medical care benefits to which you are entitled, and to this end we also maintain close contact with Senators Stevens and Gravel concerning these very matters.

Sincerely,

ALTON G. MILNER, Chief
Medical Administration Division

June 9, 1974

Veterans Administration
Outpatient Clinic (119)
Room 521 Smith Tower
2nd &Wesler
Seattle, Washington 98104

REF: 363/136-B

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your letter stating that I must buy (order) my regular medication through you or I am subject to being billed for same.

Several questions come to mind when I receive such a notice;the first being why??....why must I procure an easily perishable medication from Seattle of all places and if I have no alternative but to receive it from there, what guarantee do I have that it will be in useable condition when I receive it? Do you ship it to me under refrigeration? In speaking with the local pharmacy, I was advised that shipping Insulin through the mail is best avoided for the reasons listed above so maybe you could enlighten me on this matter.

Next, it seems somewhat peculiar that after having gotten this medication and syringes through the local pharmacy for 7 years, I am now required to order it from Seattle! Is this part of the move to cut down Government spendin No self pity intended, but, it is enough of a hassle to continually jab myself with a needle each and every morning without receiving such notices as your letter or is this normal proceedure for a government agency which I've always been under the impression as was established to assist Veterans?

I normally order 4 bottles of NPH U-80 Lilly brand Insulin and 4 boxes of U-80 B-D disposable syringes, after seeing the Doctor. I suppose from the contents of this letter, you may be under the impression that I am in complete dis-agreement with having to follow the proceedures you had listed on your for letter and if so, that impression would be correct. I hope however, you will take into consideration the concerns I have expressed. I'm sure my local Senator will. I also would appreciate an answer (s). Thank you.

Respectfully,

Danny L. Brase
Box 342
Palmer, Alaska 99645

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1288
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Date: April 17, 1974

In Reply Refer to: 363/136-b
BRASE, Danny L.
SS#478-52-9687

Danny L. Brase
Box 342
Palmer, Ak. 99645

Dear Mr. Brase:

In reviewing prescriptions for medicine you are taking for your service-connected disability, we find that some of these medications are the same each month.

In the future, please mail all prescriptions for routine medication to Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic (119), Room 521 Smith Tower, Second & Yesler, Seattle, Washington 98104.

For prompt service each prescription should bear your full name, address, and claim number. Allow ten to fourteen days for handling, shipment, and delivery.

Only prescriptions required in case of emergency may be obtained from your local pharmacy at Veterans Administration expense.

Sincerely,

Alton G. Milner

ALTON G. MILNER, Chief
Medical Administration Division

Show veteran's full name, VA file number, and social security number on all correspondence.

8/27/74
Box 343
PALMER, AK.
99645

V. A.
RM. 521, SMITH TOWER
2ND AVE. & YESLER WAY
SEATTLE, WN. 98104

REF: C 23572631

SIRS:

ENCLOSED IS THE RX YOU REQUESTED. DUE TO THE UNNECESSARY DELAY REQUIRED IN OBTAINING AN RX FOR A NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION, MY CURRENT SUPPLY IS NEARLY EXHAUSTED. YOU CAN EXPECT TO RECIEVE ANOTHER BILL FOR AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY WHICH I'LL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN, PRIOR TO THIS ORDER ARRIVING.

IF YOU'LL NOTICE, DR. CUNNINGHAM HAS ISSUED A PRN REFILL. NOW, IF YOU INSIST THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS AT A TIME, PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHEN THE NEXT ONE WILL BE DUE.

IT MUST BE MY MIS-UNDERSTANDING OF V.A. POLICY THAT HAS ME CONFUSED AND IRRITATED. WHY IS A 30 DAY ORDER REQUIRED FOR AN ON-GOING MEDICATION SUCH AS INSULIN? I ASSUMED MOST EVERYONE KNEW THAT ONCE SOMEONE HAS ACQUIRED DIABETES (ESPECIALLY OF MY SEVERITY), THAT IT WOULD BE A LIFE-LONG CONDITION. I FAIL TO READILY UNDERSTAND HOW ALL THESE SUPERFLUOUS, ORDERS, RX'S, ETC. IS TRULY A CUT-BACK IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING WHICH IS, WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, IS THE PURPOSE IN THIS ORDERING THROUGH THE MAIL

Yours Truly,
Donald L. Bass

VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION
OUTPATIENT CLINIC (119)
ROOM 521 SMITH TOWER
SECOND & YESLER
SEATTLE, WN. 98104

18 August 74

REF: 363/136-b
C 23 572 631

DEAR SIRS:

Per your instructions re: the acquisition of medication for service connected disabilities, please mail promptly: 4 EA. BOTTLES NPH U-80 INSULIN (LILLY BRAND ONLY)

4 EA. BOXES DISPOSABLE SYRINGES (26 GA. 1/2")

COTTON BALLS & ALCOHOL IF AVAILABLE.

Thank You -

Danny L. Brase

DANNY L. BRASE
BOX 343
PALMER, ALASKA 99645

8/22/74

Dear Mr. Brase:

We will be happy to supply you with the Insulin you need. However, we must have a written prescription from your doctor for this or any other medication you may be eligible to get for a service-connected disability. The insulin supplies (Syringes, cotton balls, alcohol, etc.) can be provided without a prescription. We are sending them herewith & will send the Insulin as soon as we receive a prescription.

K. Toms

P.S. VA policy is to provide a 30-day supply of medication, which can be refilled each month for 5 months, if your doctor will authorize refills on the [illegible]

OUTPATIENTS PHARMACY
ROOM 521 SMITH TOWER
2nd AVE. & YESLER WAY
SEATTLE, WASH. [illegible]

Valley Medical Center

Box 916
Palmer, Alaska 99645

March 17, 1975

The Honorable Senator Jalmar Kerttula
Senate Majority Leader
Alaska State Legislature
Senate
Juneau, AK 99801

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10.
Presently in the Senate by the
Commerce Committee.
SUBJECT: Certain practices of the
United States Veterans Administration
in regards to medications available
to veterans.

Dear Senator Kerttula:

I am, indeed, in favor of this resolution that would change the present system of the VA to allow members of the VA to obtain medicines at their local pharmacies rather than having them shipped. In the past, many people need medications who are eligible for this service and have to wait an undesirable length of time which is not beneficial to their present health. In fact, many of the drugs are damaged via shipment; and when the medication does arrive, it is ineffective.

I believe that a change in this system would alleviate some of the bureaucracy red tape, expedite matters and also given those people who deserve better care than what they are receiving at the present time under the present policy. I would personally appreciate your efforts on behalf of changing the present situation.

Sincerely,

M. E. Kirkpatrick, D.O.

MEK:vmw

cc: Susan Sullivan 3-21-75
KB