

Prior Authorization Reform Legislation - Be an Original Cosponsor - Deadline 5/12

Sending Office: Honorable Suzan K. DelBene
Sent By: Kyle.Hill@mail.house.gov

Cosponsor: The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021

Original Cosponsor Deadline: COB 5/12

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Dear Colleague:

As you may know, health insurance plans, including many Medicare Advantage plans, require physicians and other health care providers to obtain pre-approval for certain medical treatments or tests before they can provide care to their patients. Prior authorization can play a role in ensuring beneficiaries receive clinically appropriate treatments and help control the cost of care. However, when misused, prior authorization can lead to delays in care for patients and result in administrative burdens for providers, taking precious time away from patient care and potentially leading to a delay of needed medical intervention.

The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021, aims to improve the current prior authorization system by requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve the way Medicare Advantage plans use prior authorization. Based on a [consensus statement](#) on prior authorization adopted by leading national organizations representing physicians, hospitals and health plans, our legislation:

- establishes an electronic prior authorization process,
- requires the Secretary of HHS to establish a process for “real-time decisions” for items and services that are routinely approved,
- improves transparency by requiring Medicare Advantage plans to report to CMS on the extent of their use of prior authorization and the rate of approvals or denials, and
- requests that plans adopt prior authorization programs that adhere to evidence-based medical guidelines in consultation with physicians.

In the 116th Congress this bill was cosponsored by [280 bipartisan members](#). This bill follows a [letter](#) that over 100 members signed in 2018 urging CMS to adopt such transparency and oversight reforms. The updated text reflects continued conversations with all stakeholders and is identical to the [Senate companion](#) introduced at the end of the 116th Congress. Please help bring greater accountability and streamline the Medicare Advantage prior authorization process by cosponsoring the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021.

To cosponsor the bill please [complete this FORM](#). For more information, please contact Kyle Hill (Rep. DelBene) at kyle.hill@mail.house.gov, Kevin Dawson (Rep. Kelly) at kevin.dawson@mail.house.gov, Colleen Nguyen (Rep. Bera) at colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov or Dylan Moore (Rep. Bucshon) at dylan.moore@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene

Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.

Member of Congress

Mike Kelly

Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.

Member of Congress