



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

June 27, 2022

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Chair  
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith  
Ranking Member  
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Prior Authorization in Medicare Advantage Plans**

Dear Chairs DeGette and Pallone and Ranking Members Griffith and McMorris Rodgers:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine writes to thank you for examining Medicare Advantage (MA) plans during the upcoming hearing **“Protecting America’s Seniors: Oversight of Private Sector Medicare Advantage Plans.”** The Alliance’s mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance supports **H.R. 3173, the *Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act***, which would improve the prior authorization process in MA plans through increased transparency and the establishment of an electronic prior authorization process and urges the committee to advance this legislation.

Prior authorization is a cumbersome process that requires physicians to obtain pre-approval for medical treatments or tests before rendering care to their patients. The process for obtaining this approval is lengthy and typically requires physicians or their staff to spend the equivalent of

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists

two or more days each week negotiating with insurance companies — time that would better be spent taking care of patients. Patients are now experiencing significant barriers to medically necessary care due to prior authorization requirements for items and services that are eventually routinely approved. H.R. 3173 will help streamline, standardize, and modernize prior authorization in the MA program.

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine supports opportunities to improve the prior authorization process to ensure safe, timely, and affordable access to care for patients. We urge the committee to act on this important legislation which would reduce the administrative burdens of prior authorization in the MA program. We look forward to working with you to advance H.R. 3173, the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American Gastroenterological Association  
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