

# **MEDICAL SOCIETY** of the **STATE OF NEW YORK**

Morris Auster, Esq.  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Legislative Counsel

*Division of Governmental Affairs*  
**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**IN ASSEMBLY INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

**A.3789 (WEPRIN)**

**IN SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**S.7297 (HOYLMAN-SIGAL)**

**AN ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to utilization review program standards, and in relation to pre-authorization of health care services.**

This legislation would amend the Insurance and Public Health Laws to streamline the prior authorization process and reduce barriers experienced by patients, and their physicians, that delay patients' access to needed treatment and medications. **The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) supports this legislation.**

Prior authorizations frequently impose overwhelming burdens that can cause unnecessary delays in needed care for patients. Delay in authorization of prescriptions, tests or procedures can cause needless anxiety for patients already stressed by uncertainty regarding their condition. A recent Annals of Internal Medicine study concluded that for every hour a physician spends on delivering care to a patient, two more are spent on administrative tasks. Moreover, the most recent survey of physicians by the American Medical Association (AMA) reported that 94% of responding physicians said that the prior authorization process delayed patient access to necessary care and 90% of the respondents indicated that prior authorization led to somewhat, or significant, negative outcomes. The survey also found that prior authorization resulted in serious adverse events leading to patient hospitalization, interventions to prevent permanent impairment or damage. patient disability, permanent bodily damage, congenital anomaly, birth defect and death.

Patients with chronic conditions have complex medical needs, and their health depends on following strict treatment regimens. Timely access to treatment and medications is critical to maintaining these regimens. Prior Authorization requirements may increase their risk of lapsing treatment or exacerbating progression of their disease because of these delays and can have a negative effect on their lives and health outcomes. Additionally, all patients need to know they'll receive treatment in a timely manner and that their care and treatment will continue to be covered by their insurance plan.

This legislation makes significant progress toward remedying the harm caused by prior authorization by requiring that health plan utilization review criteria be evidence-based and peer reviewed, reducing the insurer timeframe for reviewing prior authorization requests and limiting when an insurer can withdraw or repeat a previously granted prior authorization.

**This legislation is critically important to protecting patients' access to timely treatment and medications that they need to keep them healthy. For all of the reasons stated above, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation and urges its enactment.**

**5/22/25  
ZDC - Support**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**