

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) District II  
Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY)  
New York Chapter American College of Surgeons, Inc.  
New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP)  
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP – Chapters 1, 2 & 3)  
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition (NYSBDC)  
New York Chapter American College of Physicians  
New York State Neurological Society  
NYS Society of Anesthesiologists  
New York Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
NYS Society of Orthopedic Surgeons, Inc.  
NYS Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
New York State Radiological Society (NYSRS)  
NYS Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc.  
NYS Psychiatric Association (NYSPA)**

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT  
Governor Hochul’s FY2026-27 Budget Proposal to Reform Prior Authorization Process**

**PATIENTS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO TIMELY AND CONSISTENT CARE**  
*Ensuring continuity of care and access to affordable healthcare for patients is critical.*

The above-signed groups urge support for inclusion of Governor Hochul’s proposal for reforming the prior authorization process in the final state budget for FY2026-27. This proposal will help to streamline the prior authorization process and reduce barriers experienced by patients, and their physicians, by doing the following:

- Require health plan formularies be publicly available and easily accessible.
- Require health plans to provide longer authorization of treatment for duration for chronic condition treatment.
- Require additional “continuity of care” coverage protections after physician leaves health plan.
- Require health plan to publicly disclose reasons for prior authorization denials.

Prior authorizations often impose overwhelming burdens that cause unnecessary delays in needed care and needless anxiety for patients already stressed by uncertainty regarding their condition. An [Annals of Internal Medicine study released in October of 2025](#) found that the prior authorization process consumed an average of 13 hours per week of physician and staff time, with 40% of physicians employing staff solely dedicated to dealing with the prior authorization process. The study also found that physicians spend nearly \$27 billion a year on time dealing with issues related to utilization management.

Moreover, the [most recent survey of physicians by the American Medical Association \(AMA\)](#) reported that 93% of responding physicians said the prior authorization process delayed patient access to necessary care and 1 in 3 of respondents said that prior authorization had caused serious adverse events for patients.

Patients with chronic conditions have complex medical needs, and their health depends on following strict treatment regimens. Timely access to medications and other treatments is critical to maintaining these regimens. Prior Authorization requirements may increase their risk of abandoning treatment or advancing 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 that their care and treatment will continue to be covered by their insurance plan.

**Governor Hochul’s FY2026-27 proposal for prior authorization reform is critically important to protecting patients’ access to prompt care with needed medical treatments to manage their disease and stay healthy. We urge you to support this important proposal.**