



25TH ANNIVERSARY

Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Mark Green, MD
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of H.R. 2433, the *Reducing Medically Unnecessary Delays in Care Act*

Dear Representatives Green and Schrier:

As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (the “Alliance”) writes in support of your legislation, **H.R. 2433, the *Reducing Medically Unnecessary Delays in Care Act***, which would ensure that prior authorization decisions in Medicare and Medicare Advantage are made by board-certified physicians in the same specialty as the physician of the treatment or disease in question, and direct plans to comply with requirements around medical necessity and written clinical criteria.

The Alliance represents more than 100,000 specialty physicians and surgeons across 16 specialty and subspecialty societies and is deeply committed to improving access to specialty medical care through the advancement of sound health care policy. The Alliance urges Congress to meaningfully improve the prior authorization process, to reduce administrative burdens, and ensure safe, timely, and affordable access to care for patients, as proposed in the *Reducing Medically Unnecessary Delays in Care Act*.

As you know, 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 two or more days each week negotiating with insurance companies — time that would be better 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.

In the fall of 2022, the Alliance conducted a survey of over 800 specialty physicians on the topic of prior authorization. The findings underscore the burden of utilization management protocols on the practice of medicine — both in terms of the negative impact on patient care and the increased administrative onus

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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 • Society of Interventional Radiology

on medical practices.¹ Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that the use of prior authorization has increased across all categories of services and treatments:

- Over 93% of respondents answered that prior authorization has increased for procedures;
- Over 83% answered that prior authorization has increased for diagnostic tools, such as labs and even basic imaging; and
- Two-thirds (66%) answered that prior authorization has increased for prescription drugs, with physicians noting that even many generic medications now require pre-approvals.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to improve patient access to care and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens for specialty physicians.

Sincerely,

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 Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
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¹ <https://specialtydocs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ASM-2022-Survey-Summary-Findings-.pdf>