

Support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act

The bipartisan, bicameral bill *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* (S.1816/H.R.3514) addresses core challenges with prior authorization (PA) in the Medicare Advantage (MA) program by streamlining access to care, reducing delays, and enhancing transparency.

The bill would amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to change how PA is used in Medicare Advantage (MA), with the goal of reducing delays and administrative burdens that can slow seniors' access to care. The bill requires MA plans to implement electronic prior authorization (ePA) systems; collect and report to CMS detailed PA data; and establish protections – like annual reviews of items/services subject to PA – for MA enrollees and providers.

The bill's requirements for public reporting of approval and denial rates as well as appeal outcomes will increase plan transparency and accountability, ensuring MA works effectively for beneficiaries. Additionally, the ePA provisions complement existing CMS regulations under the Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule (CMS-0057-F), which requires MA plans to implement a Prior Authorization API by January 1, 2027.

Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16) and Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01).

AHCA Recommendations: *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*

AHCA supports this bill and advocates on behalf of seniors to safeguard their access to medically necessary care, particularly as long term care is disproportionately impacted by prior authorization processes. Specific recommendations to further strengthen this bill's impact include:

- Requiring that prior authorization requests for SNF and PAC services be treated as expedited determinations.
- Standardizing prior authorization forms.
- Safeguarding against arbitrary post-payment audits for pre-approved services.

AHCA Advocacy Efforts

AHCA continues to call on policymakers to reaffirm the promise of Medicare Advantage through The Better Way, the Association's forward-looking policy agenda that offers Congress and the administration meaningful policies to improve America's nursing homes and prepare for the nation's aging population.



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