

Contact the DC
Council today and
tell them to pass B24-
655, the Prior Auth
Reform Act

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MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Learn more

The Medical Society of DC
202-466-1800x101
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msdc.org/priorauth



Prior Authorization

How it affects your care, and
what you can do to stop it.



What is prior authorization?

Healthcare.gov defines prior authorization (or prior auth) as, "a decision by your health insurer or plan that a health care service, treatment plan, prescription drug or durable medical equipment is medically necessary."

Basically, if your doctor or medical provider has prescribed you a treatment to help you, and it has been held up by the insurance company to see if they think it is really necessary, you've been impacted by prior authorization. And you have to wait for your treatment.

Who do you trust to treat you - your physician or an out of state insurance company?



Prior Auth: Facts v. Reality

Prior auths don't save money

Insurers claim prior auths are a way to save patients money by allowing them to receive less expensive drugs. The reality is 93% of doctors say prior auth delayed care, meaning more treatment and medical bills.

Prior auths can be issued for any reason - even non-medical

Insurance companies claim they use medical information when issuing prior auths. But 30% of doctors say that prior auths are rarely or never evidence-based, meaning the decision to delay care isn't for medical reasons.

Prior auths can endanger health

91% of doctors shared that prior auths had somewhat or significant negative impacts on clinical outcomes. The delay your insurance company is adding to your treatment can risk making your conditions or health worse, for no medical reasons.