



## **Uniform Prior Authorization form for Medicaid MCOs and Commercial Insurers**

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This bill would create a task force that would develop a one-page uniform prior authorization (PA) form for prescribers. Currently, MCOs and commercial insurers have multiple PA forms so that prescribers must not only complete different forms for each MCO and insurer. They must also find out which specific form for different medication classes they must use for each particular patient.

- To contact the MCO or insurer to find out which PA form must be used takes approximately 15-20 minutes.
- The PA process requires a lot of time on the part of prescribers which takes away time from seeing patients. Completion of the PA form requires up to 40 minutes. Here are a few examples:
  - A child and adolescent psychiatrist, who sees Medicaid child and adolescent patients, must complete 20 prior authorizations a day. He has to hire a staff person just to do the prior authorizations each day.
  - An addictions psychiatrist spends 2 hours each day on PAs for medication assisted treatment medications.
- When patients are denied coverage of their medications, they will go off their medications if they cannot afford to pay for the medication out of pocket. If they do not have their medications, they may decompensate and require hospitalization or experience even worse outcomes including death.
- Many MCOs and insurers have been requiring medical records to support the PA. This is unethical and a violation of a patient's privacy rights. The bill would prohibit MCOs and insurers from requiring medical records to support the PA.
- Requiring the response to the PA within two business days will help prevent patients from decompensating or possibly overdosing for persons with opioid use disorders.
- The bill would allow PAs to be effective for one year so that the prescriber would not need to do several PAs during the year as those PAs are unnecessary.

Please support HB 5769 as it will help patients get the care they need and it will help patient safety. For any questions, please contact Meryl Sosa at [msosa@ilpsych.org](mailto:msosa@ilpsych.org).

### **Supporting organizations**

Illinois State Medical Society

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians

Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Gateway Foundation

Regroup Therapy

Community Behavioral Health Association

Illinois Association for Behavioral Health

American Psychiatric Association

Thresholds

Heartland Alliance

Illinois Primary Care Health Association

Rosecrance

Otsuka US

Niles Family Services, Village of Niles

HRDI (Human Resources Development Institute, Inc.)

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

The Josselyn Center

NAMI Illinois

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

Transitions Mental Health Services

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)

National Psoriasis Foundation

Mental Health America of Illinois

Chicagoland Leadership Council

IARF

American College of Physicians Illinois Council

University of Chicago

NAMI Chicago

Mental Health Summit

Coalition of State Rheumatology Associations