

Congress Must Take Action to Ensure Timely Access to Care for Seniors

Background

- Bicameral, bipartisan legislation that would streamline prior authorization (PA) requirements for Medicare Advantage (MA) plans is under consideration by Congress.
- **The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act**, H.R. 8702 and S. 4532, would establish standards for an electronic PA process, thereby reducing the amount of time a plan is allowed to consider a PA request. Additionally, the act would require plans to report on their use of prior authorization.

Key Messages

- This legislation would address pervasive problems in certain MA plan practices that lead to inappropriate delays and denials in patient care, as documented in an [April 2022 report](#) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.
- Many Medicare beneficiaries live on modest incomes and have multiple chronic conditions that limit their activities of daily living. Delays in access to care can cause irreversible harm and limit beneficiaries' ability to live independently.
- Currently nearly 3.4 million Californians are enrolled in MA plans, representing 50% of the state's Medicare enrollment, and 11% of national MA enrollment. At **[NAME OF HOSPITAL]**, **[XX%]** of our patients are currently enrolled in MA plans, and we expect that percentage to increase.
- Burdensome MA prior authorization practices also lead to higher administrative costs for hospitals as they are forced to pursue lengthy appeals processes to justify medically necessary care for the patients they serve.

Resources

- CHA [Letter](#) supporting H.R. 8702 and S. 4532

- [Report: Some Medicare Advantage Organization Denials of Prior Authorization Requests Raise Concerns About Beneficiary Access to Medically Necessary Care](#) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General)
- To find out whether your representative has supported the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, check [CHA's Federal Legislative Tracker](#)

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