



MARYLAND PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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BILL: Health Insurance - Utilization Review - Revisions

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the MD Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA), representing over 260 podiatrists in Maryland and the practice of podiatry, I am writing to express our support.

Utilization review techniques, particularly prior authorization, and step therapy, have become significant barriers to patient care, often resulting in delays, denials, and unnecessary administrative burdens for both patients and healthcare providers. The statistics from the 2022 Report on the Maryland Health Care Appeals and Grievances Law are alarming, indicating a substantial increase in adverse decisions by insurance carriers, adversely affecting patient outcomes and adding to healthcare costs.

Furthermore, the emphasis on increasing transparency, providing dedicated call lines for denials, and mandating peer-to-peer reviews when requested by healthcare providers are critical measures to foster better communication and collaboration between insurers and healthcare professionals. By aligning review criteria with established medical standards and ensuring that decisions are based on clinical expertise, we can uphold the integrity of the healthcare system and prioritize the needs of our patients.

In conclusion, on behalf of MPMA and its members, I urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Adam Lowy, D.P.M., President