



**TO:** The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair  
**CC:** Members, House Government Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director, 240-688-7808  
**DATE:** March 2, 2020  
**RE:** SUPPORT – HB 1050 – Discharge or Transfer of Patients – Prior Authorization of Prescriptions (The Mae Abraham Act)

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- Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) urges a favorable report of HB 1050.
- The bill provides reasonable expectation to support patients leaving acute care to have access to needed medications.
- Due to the lack of cleared prior authorizations, our pharmacists in the community setting often cannot help their patients, as they are unable to contact the doctor to move forward with the prior authorization, because the time of day or doctor's schedule.
- If a doctor prescribes a medication to a patient leaving the hospital, the patient rightly assumes they should be able to take their prescription to the pharmacy, get their needed meds and head home to finish recuperating.
- It is extremely frustrating for the patient, caregivers and pharmacy staff when this does not happen.
- Patients may be delayed their receiving medication and caregivers and pharmacists spend an inordinate amount of time trying to track down the prescribing doctor to get the prior authorization.
- Primary care physicians will not write a new prescription without seeing the patient, which requires more scheduling, waiting and additional co-pays.
- The situation may necessitate that the pharmacist and patient ensure that the proper calls are made, when this could be done in the hospital. The hospital has all the requisite information to clear procedures and treatments, the medication can be done as well.
- From a personal perspective, I am a wife, mother, full-time professional and co-caregiver of my mother-in-law, who has been in and out of the hospital over the last several months. It takes a tremendous amount of time and coordination to get just the basics covered. Getting to the pharmacy to discover we cannot get her medication because a prior authorization is needed is extremely frustrating and has caused unnecessary anxiety for her, when she is just trying to survive.
- As caregivers, we do the best we can, please pass HB 1050 to ease our ability to care for our loved ones and to streamline the ability for pharmacists to serve as efficiently as possible.