

Prior Authorization Reform

Working Collaboratively for a Healthier Hawaii

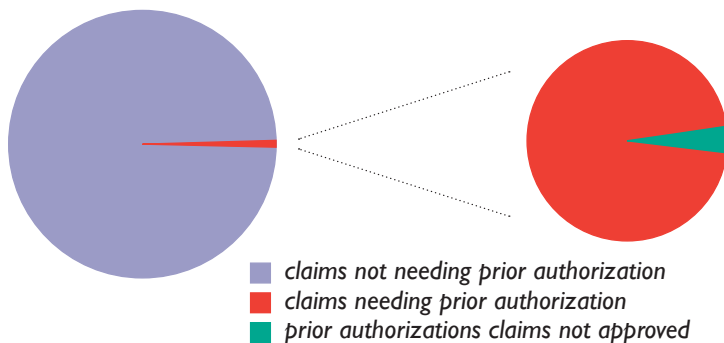
The topic of Prior Authorization has garnered much attention, fueling argument and debate, but few solutions. The Hawaii Medical Association reached out to HMSA - Hawaii's largest medical insurance provider - to engage in a collaborative effort to address prior authorization reform. In response to our request to engage, Stefanie Park, M.D., vice president and chief medical officer at HMSA, released a formal statement on HMSA's current and ongoing work towards prior authorization reform.

Here's a summary of HMSA's statement:

WHY PRIOR AUTHORIZATION?

Prior authorization is the pre-service review of non-emergency medical services and treatments for cost efficacy, safety, and medical appropriateness for a patient's diagnosis. It's an established practice - a standard across the health care industry - designed to keep health care premiums affordable. Prior authorization doesn't apply to emergency care or care that members receive when they're hospitalized for a medical condition.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION'S CURRENT IMPACT



Of the 17 million claims processed by HMSA in 2024, just 1.2% needed prior authorization.

91.3% of the claims needing prior authorization were approved.

HMSA'S IMMEDIATE COMMITMENT

- Removing prior authorization requirements from frequently approved procedures, like Supportive Care, select Durable Medical Equipment, Bariatric Surgery, and Blepharoplasty.
- Expanding their Fast Pass Program, which waives prior authorization for providers with high levels of adherence to HMSA medical policies.
- Taskforce expansion to address administrative burden.

HMSA'S CONTINUING EFFORTS

- Education to reduce unnecessary submissions
- Fully integrated modernization: phasing out fax requests, encouraging online submissions
- Taskforce working group study to recommend changes

We're grateful to HMSA for their willingness to collaborate in finding solutions to Prior Authorization Reform. By working together, we can continue to create solutions that will ultimately benefit the citizens of Hawaii. To read the entire HMSA statement on Prior Authorization, and to follow our progress on Prior Authorization Reform, visit hawaiimedicalassociation.org.

