



Support the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act

The Seniors’ Act (S1816/HR 3514) is bipartisan legislation that would streamline and standardize the inefficient Medicare Advantage (MA) prior authorization (PA) structure, protecting seniors from unnecessary delays and reducing administrative burden on providers.

- **Senate Champions:** Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS) and Mark Warner (D-VA)
- **House Champions:** Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), and John Joyce, MD (R-PA)

Overview of the Seniors’ Act

- Streamline the PA process by requiring MA plans to adopt an electronic prior authorization (e-PA) system.
- Clarify the authority of HHS to establish timeframes for MA PA decisions, including expedited determinations and real-time decisions for routinely approved services.
- Require MA plans to disclose annual data on items and services subject to PA requirements, claim decisions, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in the PA process, PA timeframes, and other information.
- Improve transparency by requiring MA plans to provide clear PA criteria around coverage and eligibility to providers and patients.
- Expand beneficiary protections to improve access to care and patient outcomes.
- Require HHS and other agencies to report to Congress on program integrity efforts and new ways to strengthen the e-PA process.



Prior authorization has become a major administrative burden for podiatric physicians—delaying necessary care, straining practice resources, and jeopardizing patients’ health and mobility. - Brooke Bisbee, DPM, APMA President, Rogers, AR

Unnecessary prior authorization delays under Medicare Advantage are harming patients—causing pain, infection risk, and loss of mobility—when timely foot and ankle care is critical. - Steve Merckx, DPM, Madison, WI



APMA urges Congress to pass S 1816/HR 3514, the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act of 2025 to ensure that MA beneficiaries receive timely, medically necessary care without unnecessary administrative delays.

The American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) represents the vast majority of the more than 15,000 licensed podiatric physicians and surgeons—also known as doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs)—in the United States. Our members diagnose and treat conditions of the foot and ankle that affect millions of Americans, including individuals with diabetes, circulatory disorders, and other chronic conditions.

