



## H.R. 5940/S. 3480, SENIORS DESERVE SMARTER CARE ACT

### WISeR Model: Wrong Direction for America's Seniors

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is advancing the *Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Model*, a significant new payment model expanding prior authorization (PA) in Traditional Medicare. Although presented as an effort to address waste, fraud and abuse, increased PA will create harmful delays and barriers to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Experience with Medicare Advantage (MA) shows that PA burdens clinicians, diverts clinical resources, and delays medically necessary care for patients. Extending similar requirements in traditional Medicare risks repeating these problems and restricting access to timely, appropriate care for millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Although the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) model is voluntary, providers who do not submit PA requests are subject to pre-payment medical reviews. The WISeR model is monitored by third-party vendors who are managing PA claim approvals through artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

The WISeR Model is scheduled for a six-year trial to apply to Medicare Part B providers in six states: **New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Washington**. Notably, CMS may expand the WISeR model to include additional services and states that could result in more spending and more Medicare beneficiaries subject to prior authorization restrictions in future years.

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### Congress Must Repeal the WISeR Model

Prior authorization is consistently the most burdensome administrative barrier preventing podiatric physicians from delivering medically necessary care to their patients. The WISeR model is increasing PA and financially incentivizing vendors in the model to deny claims, creating dangerous delays in care that chronic wound care patients cannot afford. Additionally, WISeR's reliance on AI and automated review tools increases the risk of inaccurate determinations and administrative errors that can result in life-threatening complications for vulnerable patients.

### Support H.R. 5940/S. 3480, the Seniors Deserve SMARTER Care Act

The WISeR Model must be repealed to prevent the expansion of burdensome PA requirements life-threatening to patients in Medicare. We urge Congress to pass the **Seniors Deserve SMARTER (Streamlined Medical Approvals for Timely, Efficient Recovery) Care Act**, led by Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), which would:

- Prohibit the HHS Secretary from implementing the WISeR model or any similar model in Medicare fee-for-service
- Protect podiatrists and other physicians from additional PA administrative burdens that prevent patients from accessing timely care

For more information, please contact APMA Advocacy Team at [advocacy@apma.org](mailto:advocacy@apma.org).