



November 29, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) – representing approximately 4,500 rehabilitation nurses and more than 14,000 Certified Registered Rehabilitation Nurses (CRRN) that work to enhance the quality of life for those affected by physical disability and/or chronic illness – **we write urging you to pass the *Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 (S.3018/ H.R.3173) in an end-of-year legislative package.***

ARN supports all efforts to ensure persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses have access to the appropriate level of rehabilitation services to maximize functional outcomes, independence, and quality of life. Prior authorization requirements often delay patient access to clinically appropriate care and prevent beneficiaries from receiving the treatment they need in order to regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and function following injury, disability, or chronic illness. If enacted, this legislation would ensure patients receive timely access to appropriate treatments and affordable care without generating administrative burden for providers.

The *Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act* would streamline prior authorization processes in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans making it easier for seniors, including those in need of rehabilitative care, to get the care they need and improve health outcomes. Specifically, the legislation would achieve the following:

1. Establish an electronic prior authorization process.
2. Require the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to establish a process for “real-time decisions” for items and services that are routinely approved.
3. Improve transparency by requiring Medicare Advantage plans to report to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the extent of their use of prior authorization and the rate of approvals or denials.
4. Encourage plans to adopt prior authorization programs that adhere to evidence-based medical guidelines in consultation with physicians.

Congress must address the unnecessary overuse of prior authorization in the MA program and reduce the frequency of inappropriately delayed or denied rehabilitative care.

Therefore, we urge you to include the *Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act* (S.3018/ H.R.3173) in an end-of-year package to protect patients from unnecessary delays in care due to the overuse and misuse of prior authorization in MA plans.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Scott at jscott@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Radwanski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

President Maria Radwanski, MSN, RN, CRRN