



February 14, 2024

Representative Dan Zwonitzer, Chair
House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee
State Capitol, 200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Chair Zwonitzer and Members of the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee,

The Wyoming State Oncology Society (WSOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **HB 14: Prior Authorization Regulations**, which establishes guardrails around prior authorization processes in the state.

WSOS is the largest oncology professional organization in Wyoming and comprises a powerful community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and other multidisciplinary care providers involved in the treatment of patients with cancer. WSOS's core mission is to improve patient outcomes and the treatment of cancer in Wyoming. ASCO is the world's leading professional society representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 50,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high-quality, equitable cancer care.

Prior authorization requires patients or their providers to secure pre-approval as a condition of payment or insurance coverage of services. In a recent ASCO survey, 80% of respondents said that a patient has experienced significant impacts on their health, such as disease progress, because of prior authorization processes. The most common harms to patients include delays in treatment (95%) and diagnostic imaging (94%), patients being forced onto second-choice therapy (93%) or denied therapy (87%) and increased out-of-pocket costs (88%). These survey responses confirm that prior authorization results in unnecessary delays or denials of cancer care.

WSOS and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be developed and implemented in a way that does not undermine patient access. Payer utilization management approaches like prior authorization are of particular concern because they represent greater likelihood of raising barriers to appropriate care for individuals with cancer.

WSOS and ASCO are pleased that HB 14:

- **Ensures timely access to care** by requiring insurers to respond to a prior authorization request within five business days for nonurgent circumstances and within 24 hours if the request is urgent;

- **Improves the review process** by requiring notification of a possible denial to the prescribing physician and providing the physician an opportunity to discuss the medical necessity of the health care service;
- **Accommodates the needs of specialized patient populations** by ensuring that prescribing physicians have the opportunity to have all adverse determination appeals reviewed by a physician within the same relevant specialty;
- **Promotes continuity of care** by stipulating that prior authorization for a healthcare service for the treatment of chronic and long-term conditions, such as cancer, must remain valid for 12 months; and
- **Improves transparency** by implementing prior authorization statistic reporting requirements and ensuring that utilization management processes are posted clearly online.

The bill would also offer providers that have at least an 80% approval rate of prior authorization requests over a 12-month period an exemption from prior authorization requirements. A well-earned exemption for providers that have a proven track record of prior authorization approvals will allow doctors to skip the burdensome prior authorization process, ultimately resulting in more-timely delivery of care to patients.

WSOS and ASCO are encouraged by the steps HB 14 takes toward improving prior authorization in Wyoming, and we welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you. For a more detailed understanding of our policy recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position Statement: Prior Authorization](#). Please contact Sarah Lanford at ASCO at Sarah.Lanford@asco.org if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Joshua Binks, MD
President
Wyoming State Oncology Society



Everett Vokes, MD, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology