



Physicians Caring for Texans

Require Explanation of Benefits for Patients When Prior Authorization Approved
House Insurance Committee
House Bill 4012 by Rep. Greg Bonnen, MD
Physician Testimony by Zeke Silva, MD
April 13, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Zeke Silva, and I am a physician from San Antonio specializing in radiology. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the Texas Medical Association and its more than 55,000 physician and medical student members across Texas **in support of** House Bill 4012.

We thank Chairman Bonnen for filing this legislation, which will greatly benefit Texas patients who have health care services go through a health plan prior authorization process.

TMA believes that if a health plan requires a health care service to go through prior authorization review, the information submitted on the standard prior authorization form could be put to good use in helping the patient in ways beyond merely obtaining authorization for medical care.

When the health plan preauthorizes a patient to receive a health care service scheduled at a facility, it should use the information submitted on the standard prior authorization form to inform the patient of the network status of any physicians or health care professionals who may be involved in the preauthorized health care.

The health plan should also use the information provided to educate the patient on what level of coverage the plan will provide and what the patient's financial responsibility will be to all physicians and providers.

The information that we, as physicians, provide to the health plan is more than enough to allow the plan to notify patients of this valuable and necessary information.

This financial and network information would provide a better level of transparency to the patient and allow the patient to better plan for his or her upcoming medical care. This would include any copayment or coinsurance amount, deductible requirements, and out-of-pocket amount the health plan requires the patient to pay.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today, and I am happy to answer any questions.