



## Prior Authorization Exemption



Prior authorization is a complicated, time-consuming, cost-control process utilized by health plans that require physicians to obtain advance approval from a health plan before a specific service or medication is delivered. The overuse and misuse of prior authorizations negatively impacts patients and providers by leading to care delays for patients, administrative burdens for physicians, and increased cost to the healthcare system. KMA supports legislation that establishes a prior authorization exemption program designed to automatically waive prior authorization requirements if a physician has historically been approved for a specific procedure/service most of the time. A prior authorization exemption program would reduce administrative burden for physicians and ensure patients have timely access to the care they need.

## Scope of Practice



A physician-led, team-based approach to health care is foundational to quality patient outcomes in Kentucky. When medical professionals work together, under the guidance/oversight of a physician, they can more effectively deliver safe, high-quality care. Unfortunately, non-physician groups use "healthcare workforce shortage" and "access to care" concerns as justification to expand their scope of practice. To counter these efforts, KMA will undertake efforts to address scope of practice issues and legislation presented by non-physician health care providers in the state that would weaken the practice of medicine. KMA will simultaneously seek legislative action that would grow the physician workforce, and work to expand access and availability to the medically underserved parts of the Commonwealth.

## Physician Wellness



Physicians often find themselves under enormous pressure as they deal with the normal struggles of everyday life. To assist physicians with addressing these issues, the KMA and the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care launched the Be Well. Stay Well Physician Health Program. However, many physicians and medical students are hesitant to seek counseling for career fatigue and other burnout-related issues for fear that they will have to disclose such information on licensure or credentialing applications. KMA supports legislation that provides for safe haven reporting systems and wellness programs for physicians, medical students, and other health care professionals to seek care for career burnout and other stressors.

## Other Issues of Interest

Additionally, KMA will closely monitor and take appropriate action regarding other issues of interest to the physician community, including All Payers Claims Database, marijuana legalization, vaccination exemptions, and Medicaid-related issues.



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**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**