



TO: House Insurance Committee

FROM: Jennifer Loucks, PharmD  
KCHP Member

Chris Bell, PharmD, MS  
KCHP Director of Governmental Affairs

DATE: February 20, 2023

RE: HB 2283 Proponent

On behalf of the Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHP), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 2283.

The Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy is committed to advancing public health by promoting the safe and appropriate use of medications through advocacy and education. KCHP represents pharmacists and pharmacy technicians supporting hospital and health-system pharmacy practice across the state of Kansas. As health systems have evolved, many integrated pharmacies have assumed roles ranging from support of, to ownership of, the prior authorization process.

While originally intended as a cost-saving mechanism the prior authorization process currently drives delays in patient therapy, increased and unnecessary administrative burden for providers and pharmacies, and patient frustrations and confusion. In addition, the process interferes with the patient-provider relationship potentially preventing optimal medication therapy management.

Despite increased efficiency and expertise with integrated pharmacy models, prior authorization support continues to be a significant strain on the health care system and prevents licensed professionals from providing higher levels of patient care.

In a recent example, a patient actively treated with a disease modifying medication for rheumatoid arthritis experienced a 6-week delay in therapy due to the prior authorization process required by their new insurance plan. Despite submitting the complex prior authorization application within 1 business day of the prescription being written, the insurance response took more than a week to arrive. The prior authorization was initially denied requiring an appeal, creating additional administrative burden and extensive delays. This patient's ordeal would have been minimized, if not prevented entirely, with an improved and streamlined prior authorization process.

Prior authorization reform will bring much needed modernization to the process through leveraging electronic means of communication and allowing streamlining timelines to reduce delays in care. HB 2283 will also reduce the administrative burden on our health care teams, allowing them more time to focus on providing care to patients.

We hope that this committee will recommend House Bill 2283 favorably for passage.

Jennifer Loucks, PharmD  
KCHP Member

Chris Bell, PharmD, MS  
KCHP Director of Governmental Affairs