



**Uniform Prior Authorization form for Medicaid MCOs and Commercial Insurers**  
**Support HB 2160 Chief Sponsors Representative Deb Conroy and Senator Julie Morrison**

This bill would create a task force that would develop a one-page uniform prior authorization (PA) form for prescribers. Currently, MCOs and commercial insurers have multiple PA forms so that prescribers must not only complete different forms for each MCO and insurer. They must also find out which specific form for different medication classes they must use for each particular patient.

- To contact the MCO or insurer to find out which PA form must be used takes approximately 15-20 minutes.
- The PA process requires a lot of time on the part of prescribers which takes away time from seeing patients. Completion of the PA form requires up to 40 minutes. Here are a few examples:
  - A child and adolescent psychiatrist, who sees Medicaid child and adolescent patients, must complete 20 prior authorizations a day. He has to hire a staff person just to do the prior authorizations each day.
  - An addictions psychiatrist spends 2 hours each day on PAs for medication assisted treatment medications.
- When patients are denied coverage of their medications, they will go off their medications if they cannot afford to pay for the medication out of pocket. If they do not have their medications, they may decompensate and require hospitalization or experience even worse outcomes including death.
- Many MCOs and insurers have been requiring medical records to support the PA. This is unethical and a violation of a patient's privacy rights. The bill would prohibit MCOs and insurers from requiring medical records to support the PA.
- Requiring the response to the PA within two business days will help prevent patients from decompensating or possibly overdosing for persons with opioid use disorders.
- The bill would allow PAs to be effective for one year so that the prescriber would not need to do several PAs during the year as those PAs are unnecessary.

**Please support HB 2160 as it will help patients get the care they need and it will help patient safety. For any questions, please contact Meryl Sosa at [msosa@ilpsych.org](mailto:msosa@ilpsych.org).**

**\*See reverse for the list of supporting organizations**

## **Supporting organizations**

Illinois State Medical Society  
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians  
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Gateway Foundation  
Regroup Therapy  
Community Behavioral Health Association  
Illinois Association for Behavioral Health  
American Psychiatric Association  
Thresholds  
Heartland Alliance  
Illinois Primary Care Health Association  
Rosecrance  
Otsuka US  
Niles Family Services, Village of Niles  
HRDI (Human Resources Development Institute, Inc.)  
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group  
The Josselyn Center  
NAMI Illinois  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
Transitions Mental Health Services  
Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Mental Health America of Illinois  
Chicagoland Leadership Council  
IARF  
American College of Physicians Illinois Council  
University of Chicago  
NAMI Chicago  
Mental Health Summit  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Northwestern Medicine  
Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants  
Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
Illinois Chapter of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society  
NAMI North Suburban  
EverThrive Illinois  
Illinois Hospital Association  
Anixter Center  
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society