

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

Elizabeth Dears, Esq.

Senior Vice President /
Chief Legislative Counsel

Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

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S.4721 (HANNON)

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A.6983 (McDONALD)

AN ACT to amend the public health and insurance law, in relation to a standard prior authorization request form for a utilization review of prescription drug coverage

This bill would amend the Public Health and Insurance Laws to require the development and acceptance by health insurers of a standardized prior authorization form for requesting coverage of necessary prescription medications for patients. **The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation.**

Physicians and their staff face excessive time-consuming burdens imposed by health insurance companies in seeking to assure their patients can receive the treatments and medications they need to recover from or stabilize an illness or condition. Legislation enacted in 2012 required the New York State Department of Health to create a standardized form for physicians and other prescribers to use when it is necessary to seek prior authorization of needed prescription medications for their patients enrolled in Medicaid managed care plans. The form was developed with input from numerous stakeholders, including physician associations, and was implemented. The goal of the form was to reduce the administrative burden faced by physicians and other prescribers as a result of moving from a single formulary in the Medicaid fee for service program to the formularies of 20 different insurance companies. As this form has been implemented for Medicaid patients, its use should be extended to commercial insurance companies to reduce the enormous and seemingly growing burden physician offices face in requesting prior authorization to assure their patients can receive the medications they need.

Based on the foregoing, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation and urges its enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

5/26/15
MMA-support

ELIZABETH DEARS KENT, ESQ.