



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

April 10, 2018

The Honorable David Schweikert
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 4841 – Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing
Act of 2018

Dear Representative Schweikert:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) commends you on your leadership as the sponsor of H.R. 4841 and Representatives Ben Ray Lujan, Bill Johnson and Mike Thompson for joining with you. AMCP strongly supports electronic prior authorization (ePA). The prior authorization process is designed to ensure that the medications patients receive are safe, effective and provide the greatest value. As you know, the ePA process provides real-time responses which increase the efficiency and responsiveness of all parties involved in the process.

AMCP is the nation's leading professional association dedicated to increasing patient access to affordable medicines, improving health outcomes and ensuring the wise use of health care dollars. Through evidence- and value-based strategies and practices, the Academy's 8,000 pharmacists, physicians, nurses and other practitioners manage medication therapies for the 270 million Americans served by health plans, pharmacy benefit management firms, emerging care models and government.

Our members are dedicated to ensuring that the patient populations that they manage have the best pharmaceutical care. Prior authorization is one of the essential tools that improves patient care, safety and facilitates cost effective patient outcomes. When the process is paper-based, it can result in unnecessary delays in patient's receiving the appropriate medications.

AMCP has been a strong supporter of ePA and the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' (NCPDP) efforts to develop the NCPDP SCRIPT ePA. Several of our members participated in its development and that standard allows more efficient and timely communication between the prescriber and the patient's health plan in addition to optimizing health. The commercial marketplace has already seen the benefits of ePA and using the NCPDP SCRIPT ePA standard. Many of the providers in the Medicare network are already using ePA and the transition will be seamless. We applaud your efforts to bring that same level of increased efficiency to the Medicare program and its beneficiaries.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. AMCP is committed to supporting this timely legislation. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-684-2600 or at scantrell@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SCANTRELL", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable Mike Thompson