

*PA Academy of Family Physicians
2019-20 State Legislative Agenda
(As of 3/19/19)*

Prior Authorization Reform

Prior authorizations have become significantly burdensome to family physicians, and more importantly result in delays and jeopardized quality care to patients. The PAFP supports reforms that would maximize electronic communications for authorizations as well as adverse determinations, and define consistent response times for authorizations, rejections, appeals, and external utilization review. PAFP is working with Pennsylvania Medical Society and many stakeholders preparing for introduction of legislation.

Nurse Practitioner Independence

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are integral, valuable members of the health care team, held in the highest regard by family physicians. However, patients are best served when a physician-led, highly coordinated health care team provides care. Therefore, the PAFP opposes legislation that would expand their scope of practice and eliminate collaborative agreements. Sen. Bartolotta has introduced [Senate Bill 25](#), while Rep. Topper is circulating a cosponsorship memo in the House, [HCO 854](#).

Health Insurer Credentialing Reform

Delays in credentialing of new physicians or existing physicians changing practices create undo hardships most notably on the communities they serve. The PAFP supports legislation that would standardize the credentialing form and set processing standards. Rep. Owlett has introduced [House Bill 533](#) seeking to codify significant reforms. The bill is in the House Health Committee.

Buprenorphine Medically Assisted Treatment Act

Access to care for patients suffering from substance abuse disorder is critical, and state regulation could significantly jeopardize access to office based opioid treatment (OBOT). The PAFP opposes legislation that would require prescribers of Buprenorphine to be licensed by the state and pay any state licensing fee. Sen. Brooks is circulating a cosponsorship memo, [SCO 597](#).

Direct Primary Care (DPC) Authorizing Legislation

DPC is a model of care outside the bounds of health insurance and an emerging option for patients and physicians. The PAFP supports legislation that specifies direct primary care agreements are not insurance and therefore not subject to insurance laws or regulations. We anticipate Sen. Browne and Rep. MacKenzie will be introducing legislation.

Restrictive Covenants

In this age of health system consolidations, PAFP supports legislation limiting restrictive covenants in health care practitioner employment agreements. Rep. Deluca has introduced [House Bill 601](#) that rests in the House Health Committee.

POLST Legislation

Working with the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the PAFP supports updating and revising Pennsylvania law to include codification of Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) to be used by medical professionals across all health care settings for patients who voluntarily wish to execute a POLST order. Sen. Yaw has introduced [SB 142](#) that has been assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Workplace Accommodations for Nursing Mothers

The PAFP supports legislation that requires employers to provide employees time to express breast milk in a sanitary environment for her nursing child. Rep. Mary Jo Daley is circulating a cosponsorship memo [HCO 250](#).

Expanded Pharmacy Vaccinations to Minors

The PAFP opposes legislation that would amend the Pharmacy Practice Act and allow for pharmacist to administer all CDC recommended vaccinations to patients 9 years of age or older. As part of a compromise several years ago, pharmacist obtained the ability to provide influenza vaccine to those 9 and older. Sen. Judy Ward has introduced [SB 274](#) that rests in the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

PAFP's State Legislative Agenda is developed through the Government and Practice Advocacy Committee with position decisions made by the Board of Directors. Questions/Comments? Please contact Brent Ennis, PAFP Deputy EVP/COO and State-Registered Lobbyist at bennis@pafp.com