



April 1, 2020

Dear Governor Wolf, Secretary Levine and Commissioner Altman:

Pennsylvania's family physicians are on the front lines of this unprecedented public health crisis, with many serving patients in rural and underserved areas at independent medical practices. They are responsible for not only diagnosing and treating cases of COVID-19, but also for providing ongoing care to their patients within the medical home. Many independent physician practices are overwhelmed with economic and staffing difficulties related to the pandemic, coping with these added stresses on top of their everyday administrative tasks that include prior authorizations.

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While we appreciate the Administration's efforts to ease the load of prior authorizations under the state's medical assistance programs, physicians are still navigating the onerous and varied prior authorization requirements of the many commercial insurers operating in the Commonwealth.

In order to ease administrative burdens on already strained practices and allow physicians to focus directly on patient care, **we respectfully urge you to order commercial health insurers to suspend prior authorization requirements for all generic drugs, in addition to tests and treatments related to COVID-19.** Waiving these requirements will help patients receive the timely and quality care they deserve, while allowing physicians to focus on maintaining patient care within the medical home and keeping patients out of the emergency room – crucial factors in protecting the public health and flattening the curve.

Support for frontline providers, particularly those in independent practices, is more critical than ever to slowing the spread of COVID-19. Immediate steps should be taken to ensure that physicians can focus on keeping their patients healthy without the added administrative burdens that come with juggling prior authorization requirements.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and our more than 5,500 physician, resident and student members across the Commonwealth, thank you for your continued leadership and all your efforts to support health care providers during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

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