



OFFICE of the **INSURANCE COMMISSIONER** WASHINGTON STATE

Background

The OIC is considering rulemaking to regulate issuer's prior authorization processes. The rulemaking is intended to streamline the prior authorization process and make it easier for consumers to get prior authorization for covered services. Stakeholder input is important to ensure the OIC accomplishes its intent of streamlining the prior authorization process. The rulemaking will not prevent issuers from using prior authorization as it is an acceptable and reasonable cost-containment method. The OIC intends to create regulations to protect consumers and allow issuers flexibility to manage care. As a starting place, the rules may:

- Make prior authorization criteria more transparent to providers
- Require issuers to have around the clock availability to respond to urgent prior authorization requests
- Require issuers to use web-based programs to facilitate prior authorization requests

Comments

The Commissioner encourages interested stakeholders to contribute comments on the prior authorization process. Stakeholders are especially encouraged to provide comments regarding the following questions:

- What are some best practices to streamline the prior authorization process?
- What has not worked in streamlining prior authorization?
- What deficiencies exist in our current regulations regarding prior authorization?

Comments are this issue are due Friday, June 17. Comments should be addressed to Jim Freeburg and sent to rulescoordinator@oic.wa.gov.

Stakeholder meeting

In addition, stakeholders are encouraged to attend a stakeholder meeting June 28, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the OIC office in Tumwater (5000 Capitol Blvd. SE, Tumwater WA 98501). The stakeholder meeting will feature a discussion of ways to streamline the prior authorization process.

Note – this comment period is in advance of the OIC’s more typical rulemaking process that begins with a CR-101. A CR-101 will be released after the June stakeholder meeting.