



TO: GASCO Members  
FROM: Advocacy Committee, Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology  
DATE: June 28, 2022  
SUBJECT: **HELP ASCO IN URGING CONGRESS TO PASS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM**

This week, ASCO launched an advertising campaign in Politico, a leading political publication that is widely read on Capitol Hill, urging lawmakers to pass a prior authorization reform bill to help protect patient access to timely cancer treatment. The Association and its members are also reaching out to lawmakers on social media and using the ACT Network to urge swift passage of the **Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3173/S. 3018)**. The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act will help streamline prior authorization within Medicare Advantage (MA) by creating an electronic prior authorization process in MA, holding MA plans accountable for the timeliness of determinations, and requiring MA plans to report on the extent of their prior authorization use.

A recent federal report found that 13% of prior authorization denials in MA met Medicare fee-for-service coverage rules. Eight cases in the report were related to cancer care, six of which were denied based on incorrect determinations, clerical errors, incorrect data review, etc.

**Heads-Up:** On June 27<sup>th</sup>, ASCO sent an E-mail and Survey on Prior Authorization in Cancer Care. ASCO wants to hear from its members about the impact of prior authorization on cancer care. Check your e-mail inbox for ASCO's brief survey on the impact of prior authorization on your practice and patients. If you are directly involved in processing prior authorizations, we urge you to take the survey. You may also forward the survey to any colleagues who might be interested in sharing their experiences with prior authorization in cancer care. Your responses will guide ASCO's future efforts. Any questions or concerns may be sent to [priorauth@asco.org](mailto:priorauth@asco.org).

Other ways you can advance prior authorization reform:

- Urge your members of Congress to pass the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act through ASCO's ACT Network. <https://asco.quorum.us/campaign/36017/>. It takes only seconds to send your message!
- Post on social media about prior authorization, the need for reform, or why you are urging Congress to pass this legislation. Be sure to use #FixPriorAuth and #ASCOAdvocacy.
- Tell ASCO how prior authorization has impacted your patients or your practice. We will use these stories to support our advocacy efforts. Email your stories to [priorauth@asco.org](mailto:priorauth@asco.org).

Thank you for considering this call to act.

**Advocacy Committee**  
**Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology**  
**3330 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 225**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30339**  
**Voice: (770) 951-8427, Ext 215**  
**Facsimile: (770) 951-2157**  
[Karen.Beard@gasco.us](mailto:Karen.Beard@gasco.us)  
<http://www.gasco.us>