



# Electronic Rx Preauthorization and Tracking Is the Law in Maryland

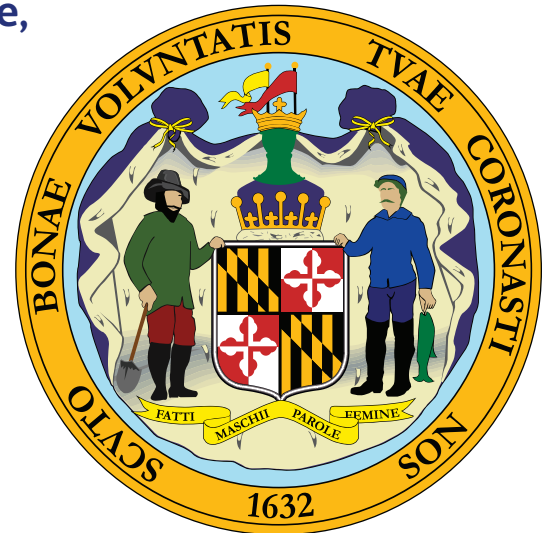
Get familiar with electronic preauthorization ahead of the mandatory July 1, 2015 deadline, when all preauthorizations will be required to be submitted electronically

Here's what you need to know about preauthorization reform<sup>1</sup>:

In 2012, Maryland law required automated procedures be put into place for tracking and approving preauthorization of medical and pharmaceutical services.

The Maryland Health Care Commission has worked together with state-regulated payers, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and providers to comply with the new electronic preauthorization requirements.

As of July 1, 2013, the new system was made available for physician practices.



The goals of preauthorization reform are to improve quality of care and the timeliness of healthcare services<sup>2</sup>

**86%** of physicians believed preauthorization required a significant amount of time in their practices and caused interruptions in patient care

**69%** of physicians reported electronic preauthorization would allow them to spend more time with patients

2011 MedChi survey<sup>3</sup>

Maryland's law is designed to increase efficiencies in physician practices by<sup>2</sup>:

- Assigning a unique ID number that can be used for tracking purposes
- Curtailing delays and avoiding errors due to manual handling of paper documents as well as phone calls and faxes
- Allowing electronic pharmaceutical requests to be approved in real-time when no additional information is required
- Providing quicker turnaround times
  - 1 business day for approval of pharmaceutical services upon receiving follow-up information
  - 2 business days for the approval of medical services

# Register today with payers and PBMs to begin the transition to electronic preauthorization

## Here's how:

1. Visit the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Web site at [http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hit/electronic\\_preauthorization/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hit/electronic_preauthorization/SitePages/Home.aspx).
2. Click on the Electronic Preauthorization menu item in the column located on the left side of the page.
3. Select the desired payer or PBM underneath the Phase 2 Implementation section of the Web site.
4. Follow the payer/PBM Web site instructions to register for the electronic preauthorization process.
5. Remember: Your practice will have to register individually with all payers and PBMs you do business with.

This piece is for informational use only and does not provide legal advice. If you have any questions, visit [www.mhcc.maryland.gov](http://www.mhcc.maryland.gov) or contact the Maryland Health Care Commission at (877) 245-1762.

***The preceding is a summary of legislation that comes into effect on July 1, 2015, and may be relevant to your practice. This information is being provided for your convenience only.***

**References:** 1. General Assembly of Maryland. Maryland House Bill 1233. Chapter 317. Health Insurance - Step Therapy or Fail-First Protocol. [http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2014RS/chapters\\_noln/Ch\\_317\\_hb1233T.pdf](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2014RS/chapters_noln/Ch_317_hb1233T.pdf). Accessed October 8, 2014. 2. Electronic Preauthorization. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Web site. [http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hit/electronic\\_preauthorization/Pages/electronic\\_preauthorization.aspx](http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hit/electronic_preauthorization/Pages/electronic_preauthorization.aspx). Accessed October 8, 2014. 3. MedChi. Prior Authorization: Impact on Patient Care in Maryland: A Survey of the Members of The Maryland State Medical Society. <http://www.medchi.org/sites/default/files/MedChi%20Prior%20Authorization%20Survey%202011.pdf>. Accessed October 28, 2014.