

FIX PRIOR AUTHORIZATION**SUPPORT THE IMPROVING SENIORS' TIMELY ACCESS TO CARE ACT (S. 1816 / H.R. 3514)****PHONE AND EMAIL SCRIPTS****STEP 1: INTRODUCTION**

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a [echocardiographer/ physician/ sonographer] at [Institution] in [City, State]. I'm a constituent of [Senator/Representative Last Name].

May I speak with the staffer handling health policy?

If they are not available, ask if you can leave a message.

STEP 2: CLEAR ASK

I am calling to urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to cosponsor and support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (S. 1816 / H.R. 3514), bipartisan legislation that would streamline and modernize the prior authorization process in Medicare Advantage.

Prior authorization requires physicians to obtain pre-approval from insurers before providing care. It is the number one administrative burden facing physicians today, and it routinely delays medically necessary care for seniors, including cardiac imaging.

STEP 3: PROVIDE 'THE WHY'

Pick one or two and expand with your personal experience.

Delays Harm Patients

- The HHS Office of Inspector General found that Medicare Advantage plans inappropriately deny medically necessary care that meets traditional Medicare coverage requirements and is supported by patient medical records.
- In the AMA's 2025 survey, 95% of physicians reported that prior authorization delays patient care, 92% said it harms clinical outcomes, and more than 1 in 4 said it has caused a serious adverse event for a patient.

Administrative Burden and Burnout

- Physicians and their staff spend the equivalent of two or more business days each week negotiating with insurance companies, time that would be better spent caring for patients.
- Physicians complete roughly 40 prior authorizations each week, and 94% report that prior authorization worsens burnout, pushing many to retire early or leave medicine.

Echocardiography and Imaging Impact

- More than 83% of specialty physicians report that prior authorization has increased for diagnostic tools, including basic imaging like echocardiography.
- Delaying echocardiograms delays the diagnosis and management of heart disease in older and high-risk patients, leading to avoidable emergency visits and hospitalizations that raise costs.

A Commonsense, Bipartisan, No-Cost Fix

- The bill establishes electronic prior authorization for Medicare Advantage plans, increases transparency, allows CMS to set decision timeframes including real-time decisions for routinely approved services, and expands beneficiary protections.
- It has a preliminary zero-cost score from the Congressional Budget Office, the support of more than 300 organizations, and cosponsorship by more than two-thirds of the House and Senate. The Ways and Means Committee favorably reported the bill, as amended, by a unanimous 42-0 vote, following favorable action by the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee.

STEP 4: CLOSE WITH A DIRECT ASK

Please cosponsor the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (S. 1816 / H.R. 3514) and work with your colleagues to advance it this Congress so that medical decisions stay between patients and their doctors.

I would be happy to serve as a resource to your office on echocardiography and cardiovascular patient care.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of patients and physicians.