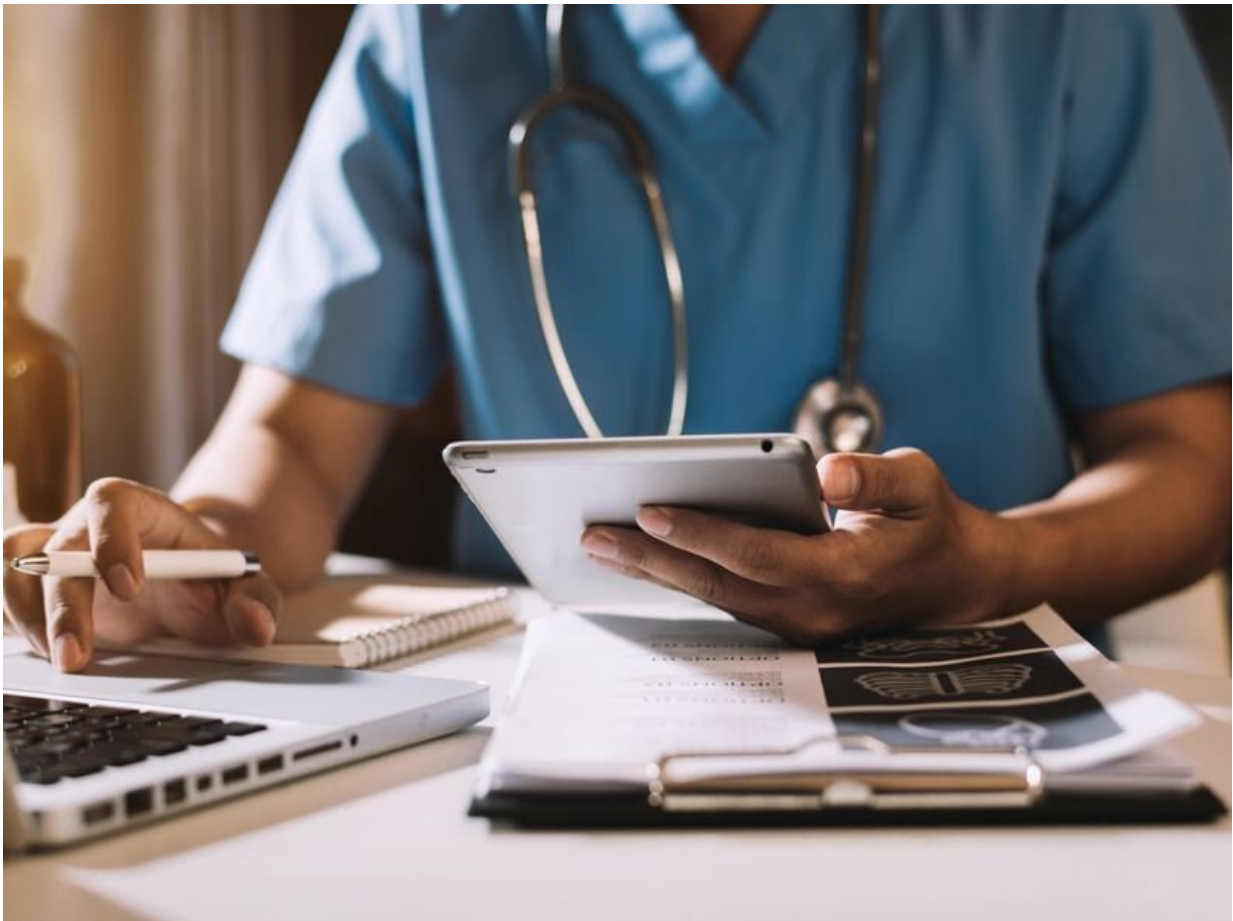


# Survey shows lack of progress on prior authorization reforms

May 30 2022

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Prior authorization reforms are not being implemented as planned,

according to survey results released by the American Medical Association.

In December 2021, the AMA conducted a survey of more than 1,000 practicing physicians about each of the five prior authorization reforms outlined in a 2018 AMA consensus statement.

According to the results of the survey, less than 1 out of 10 physicians (9%) contract with [health plans](#) that offer programs that selectively apply prior authorization requirements. The vast majority of responding physicians (84%) indicate that both the number of drugs and [medical services](#) requiring prior authorization has increased since the release of the consensus statement. More than 6 in 10 participants report that it is difficult to determine whether a drug (65%) or medical services (62%) requires prior authorization. Nearly 9 in 10 physicians report that prior authorization interferes with continuity of care, while only one-quarter say that their electronic health record system offers electronic prior authorization for prescription medications.

"Waiting on a health plan to authorize necessary medical treatment is too often a hazard to [patient health](#)," Gerald E. Harmon, M.D., president of the AMA, said in a statement. "Authorization controls that do not prioritize patient access to timely, optimal care can lead to serious adverse consequences for waiting patients, such as a hospitalization, disability, or death. Comprehensive reform is needed now to stem the heavy toll that continues to mount without effective action."

**More information:** [AMA Survey](#)

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