



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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April 26, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Cahill  
Chair  
The Honorable Glen Mulready  
Vice Chair  
Health, Long-Term Care  
and Health Retirement Issues Committee  
NCOIL National Office  
2317 Route 34, Suite 2B  
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Dear Chair Cahill and Vice Chair Mulready:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I write to respectfully request that utilization management reforms be included on the Health, Long-Term Care and Health Retirement Issues Committee's agenda at the upcoming National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) meeting in July.

Patients and providers share significant concerns regarding the impact of utilization management programs on health care. These programs can create significant barriers to care by delaying the start or continuation of necessary treatment, which may in turn negatively affect patient health outcomes. The very manual, time-consuming processes used in these programs also burden providers (physician practices, pharmacies, and hospitals) and divert valuable resources away from direct patient care.

Recognizing these common concerns, the AMA convened a workgroup of state medical associations, national medical specialty societies, national provider associations, and patient organizations to identify the major concerns regarding utilization management programs and develop principles to effect positive and necessary changes. The "Prior Authorization and Utilization Management Reform Principles" (principles) address the broad categories of clinical validity, continuity of care, transparency and fairness, timely access and administrative efficiency, and alternatives and exemptions.

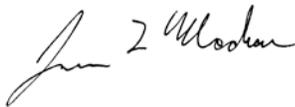
The workgroup drafted these principles with the intent of reforming and refining — rather than eliminating — utilization management programs and is currently encouraging health insurers, benefit management companies and accrediting organization to adopt these principles. Additionally, we continue to work with stakeholders to enact state legislation directing meaningful reforms to utilization management requirements.

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Given the critical nature of these issues to patients and providers and the momentum in states to address utilization management processes in balanced and reasonable ways, we hope you will consider including a discussion on such reforms on your Committee's agenda in July. We would be happy to help coordinate speakers, present on stakeholders' efforts or help in any other way you might need.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Carroll, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center at [emily.carroll@ama-assn.org](mailto:emily.carroll@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD