

Good morning, Chair Houghton,

Thank you for having DVHA in House Health Care yesterday to discuss prior authorizations and H.766. Our team has compiled answers to the questions Sandi received during testimony. Please see below.

1. What is the number of PA requests submitted by ACO providers unnecessarily?

For 2023, there were approximately 553 unnecessary PA requests.

- In-network requests: 348
- DME requests: 205 (since the PA DME Change Advisory posted 2/16/2023)

2. What is the approval rate for prior authorization requests?

In December the Clinical Operations Unit received 505 requests for authorization. The table below shows the status:

- A= Approved
- C= Cancelled
- D=Denied
- E= Exhausted
- I-Informational
- S= Suspended

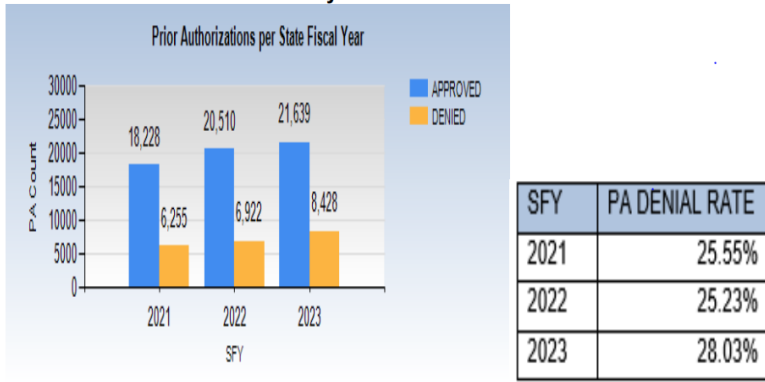
SERVICE CATEGORY	PAStatusCode						Total Count
	A Count	C Count	D Count	E Count	I Count	S Count	
CHIROPRACTIC CARE	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
DENTAL	54	0	3	0	0	0	57
DME	106	5	50	0	1	0	162
GENETIC TEST	16	0	5	0	1	0	22
HEARING AIDS	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	6	0	2	0	0	0	8
OFFICE VISIT - OUT OF NETWORK	65	0	16	0	4	0	85
ORTHOTICS/PROSTHETICS	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
PHYSICAL THERAPY	5	2	1	0	1	0	9
PRE-ADMISSION	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
PSYCHIATRY/PSYCHOLOGY	57	0	0	26	0	8	91
SLEEP STUDY	16	0	2	0	0	0	18
SPEECH THERAPY	5	0	5	1	2	0	13
SUPPLIES	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
SURGERY	23	0	1	1	0	0	25
Total	366	7	87	28	9	8	505

Rough math shows a 72% approval rate, very similar to Pharmacy.

The [Pharmacy Best Practices and Cost Control Report 30 October 2020 FINAL \(vermont.gov\)](#)

has more details about PA requests through the PBM but here is an overview:

Chart 4: Prior Authorization Summary



10 | Pharmacy Best Practices



Additionally, Sandi is working with the team to help gather data to answer what percentage of our claims require PA.

Thank you again, and please let me know if the committee has further questions.

Best,
Alex

Alex McCracken (he/him) | Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
Department of Vermont Health Access