



# PARTNERSHIP FORUM

No. 2 — 2019



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Optimizing Prior Authorization for Appropriate Medication Selection

Prior authorization (PA) and step therapy are utilization management tools that have been used for decades, and have demonstrated their value time and again. With innovation, they also have potential to offer decision-support and facilitate optimization of therapy while using resources wisely. However, inefficient use of these tools may create administrative burdens and potential access barriers to patient care. To examine how to improve PA and step therapy processes, AMCP convened a multidisciplinary stakeholder forum from June 25-26, 2019. The goals of the forum were to develop recommendations to:

- Improve efficiencies around PA and step therapy processes;
- Address administrative burdens, including by recommending technology solutions;
- Increase visibility of the clinical and economic value of PA and step therapy utilization management programs;
- Collect, review, and disseminate data-driven, real-world experiences of where PA programs support clinical and economic value;
- Collect and disseminate best practices around PA appeals and denial processes.

### KEY OUTCOMES

- Patient centered: PA programs should be focused on the patient experience, ensuring that all stakeholders' needs are met, but not at the expense of timely patient care or satisfaction.
- Prescriber's role: The importance of maintaining the prescribers' autonomy coupled with accountability was highlighted. Prescribers who practice evidence-based medicine and have financial incentives to control total cost of care should be equipped with tools to support clinical decision-making. This requires resources that support decision making aligned with the constantly changing evidence on clinical safety and effectiveness of current and new therapies.

**AMCP Partnership Forums are designed to address current market challenges and opportunities by bringing together key-decision makers in managed care, integrated care, the pharmaceutical industry, and others to discuss and collaborate on tactics and strategies to drive efficiencies and outcomes.**

### CONTACT INFO

675 N Washington Street | Suite 220  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703 684 2600 | [www.amcp.org](http://www.amcp.org) |  
[@amcporg](https://twitter.com/amcporg)

*continued on reverse*

**AMCP** | Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *continued*

- Payers' needs and responsibilities: Payers and employers require accountability and assurance of ongoing adherence to evidence-based prescribing. However, ensuring transparency when criteria and approval processes are established for utilization management tools, such as PA programs, is a vital need for truly coordinated care and more efficient PA processing.
- Health information technology (health IT): Expanding the use of health IT tools, such as electronic PA (ePA) is a best practice to reduce the administrative burdens of PA programs. Broader implementation and utilization of health IT solutions by health care entities is needed to enable a more efficient health care system.

**“Partnership Forums - bring together a disparate group of stakeholders to deal with very complex issues, and we're able to encounter, discuss, and find the best solutions to these issues.”**

**Paul Jeffrey, PharmD**

Director of Pharmacy

MassHealth/UMass Medical School, Office of Clinical Affairs

AMCP and at least five other national organizations have published best practice recommendations. Organizations considering implementing new programs will need to consider how to automate processes, increase transparency, and where appropriate, remove the need for PA while ensuring ongoing adherence to evidence-based prescribing. Work to improve the current PA and step therapy process will be an ongoing process that requires collaboration between, payers, providers, and patients to ensure solutions meet the needs of all stakeholders.

AMCP will publish a proceedings document in an upcoming issue of the JMCP with detailed findings and recommendations from this Partnership Forum. The proceedings will be used in AMCP's ongoing efforts to find innovative and collaborative solutions that improve the current PA and step therapy processes through awareness, education, policy and best practice tools.

### WATCH FOR FOLLOW-UP

- **Webinar**

January 14, 2020

- **Proceedings in the Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy**

[www.jmcp.org](http://www.jmcp.org)

January 01, 2020



### FUTURE FORUM TOPICS

#### **Digital Therapeutics: What Are They and Where Do They Fit in Pharmacy and Medical Benefits?**

September 17–18, 2019 • Hilton Mark Center  
Alexandria, VA

#### **What's Next for Specialty Medication Benefit Design and Reimbursement**

December 10–11, 2019 • Hilton Mark Center  
Alexandria, VA

HOSTED BY AMCP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

