

Prior authorization made easier

Optum Rx provides real-time benefit data and electronic submissions to streamline processes for fewer disruptions to patient care.

Making sure patients get the best therapy sometimes requires the extra step of submitting a prior authorization (PA) request. It's a common part of the prescribing process, but **86% of providers see PAs as a high source of administrative burden.**¹

Optum Rx understands their concerns and commits to streamlining the PA process for an improved experience.

Here's how: **Avoiding PA requests with real-time benefit check data**

PreCheck[®] MyScript (PCMS) data helps avoid unnecessary PA requests altogether, allowing doctors to view accurate patient medication costs within their electronic health records (EHR) system. PCMS calculates the exact cost the patient will pay for medication, displays lower cost options available and PA requirements if applicable.



Over 30% of PAs were electronically initiated or avoided using PCMS.⁵

Essentially, the data helps make the prescribing process more transparent—right at the point of care. With this real-time information, Providers can easily determine which medications to prescribe, factoring in both cost and therapy needs.

Most importantly, the data allows providers to spend less time on administrative tasks and more time with patients.



Key PCMS benefits:

- Saves providers on average 50 minutes per prescription by avoiding prior authorizations¹
- Patients save an average of \$111 per prescription when switched to a lower-cost option²
- Relies on current formulary data for coverage accuracy
- Improves patient adherence by up to 4% which may lead to lower total cost of care⁴

Improving electronic PA request processes

Utilizing ePA offers providers the best experience and helps to simplify PA submissions. Also, Optum Rx continually works to improve the ePA process for greater efficiency. Important enhancements include:

Real-time auto approvals

With auto approvals, providers enjoy more timely coverage decisions, sometimes **within 1-2 minutes of submitting an ePA request. Currently, 63% of PA approvals are auto approved, which has increased by 12%-13% over the past few years.**³ That results in time saved not waiting on replies by fax, which means more time for patient care.



Optum Rx continually works to improve the ePA process for greater efficiency.

Optum Rx stands committed to easing PA pain points through ongoing process improvements. The goal is to help providers leverage tools and data within their EHR system, such as ePA and PreCheck MyScript, that help minimize disruptions to patient care.

Auto cancellations on unnecessary PA requests

As another timesaver, Optum Rx cancels ePA requests that already have a duplicate approval on file and don't require review. Providers are immediately notified of the cancellation, which allows for faster turnaround time for patient medications.



Real-time benefits check saves providers on average 50 minutes per prescription by avoiding prior authorizations.¹

Streamlining PA communications using EHR workflow

Finally, improving how Optum Rx communicates with providers throughout the PA process is another key enhancement. It starts by utilizing the EHR system. Engaging providers within their EHR workflow provides more efficient communication that reduces back-and-forth time via fax or phone. It further allows for direct messaging about PA approval and denial notices to ensure providers always have the latest status updates.

While PA requests can be a disruption, they do play an important role in managing prescription drug costs. They also help control misuse and protect patient safety to ensure quality therapeutic outcomes.²



In the know: ePAs and PCMS

Resources for Providers

Visit optum.com for additional tools and resources

Quick Links

- [Submit an ePA request](#)
- [How to submit an ePA](#)
- [Improving the prescribing process: PreCheck MyScript](#)

1. Third party analysis of Optum Rx claims data, September 2018-August 2019.
2. Improving the prescribing process.
3. Internal Optum Rx data 2022.
4. Optum Rx data within the diabetes, statin, and hypertension therapeutic classes, 2016-2018.



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