

*Pennsylvania Rheumatology Society
Grassroots Advocacy Update
November 2, 2022*

Pennsylvania Grassroots Activity

Prior Authorization

- **After numerous legislative sessions, legislation amending the PA Insurance Act to provide relief to current prior authorization requirements HAS PASSED THE STATE LEGISLATURE!!!**
Our colleagues at the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) led the advancement, amendment, and passage of Senate Bill 225 (Printer's Number 2004) on October 26th. Although the bill did not eliminate prior authorization for all medical treatment and services, its provisions ensure a significant reduction to administrative hurdles that often delay patient care.
- Thanks to PRS members who responded to our Action Alerts soliciting grassroots advocacy support and to ACR, CSRO and PAMED for coordinating with us to get members engaged.

Federal Grassroots Activity

American College of Rheumatology (ACR) updates

- During the month of October, ACR's grassroots advocacy work focused on making formal comments to Congresswoman Ami Bera, MD and Congressman Larry Bucshon, MD in the areas of the proposed Calendar Year 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA).
- On September 30th, ACR, along with numerous medical specialty provider organizations, (including CSRO) signed onto a comprehensive letter in support of passage of House Resolution 8800 [the Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022]. If enacted as drafted, the MPFS conversion Factor for 2023 would provide a little over a 4% positive adjustment that would mitigate anticipated cuts slated to go into effect this coming January.
- ACR sent an individual letter to provide comments on proposed changes to MACRA during the Request for Information period.
- ACR is gearing up for this year's **ACR Convergence 2022, November 10th–14th Philadelphia**. For more information <https://www.rheumatology.org/Annual-Meeting/Registration>

Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) updates

- CSRO recently sent a letter to US Department of Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra expressing concerns with discrimination in Health Programs/Activities under Section 1557 within federal policy rulemaking.

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