

CMS Finalizes Prior Authorization Rule

Healthcare Law Update

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John D. Fanburg
Managing Member & Chair, Healthcare

Edward Hilzenrath
Member, Healthcare

Erika R. Marshall
Associate, Healthcare

BRACH | EICHLER^{LLC}
Counsellors at Law

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On January 17, 2024, CMS issued a final rule regarding [Interoperability and Prior Authorization](#). The goal of the final rule is to improve patient, provider, and payer access to data and the prior authorization process. Effective January 1, 2026, impacted payers, such as Medicare Advantage organizations, state Medicaid, and CHIP programs, must provide prior authorization decisions within 72 hours for urgent requests and 7 calendar days for non-urgent requests. Any denial must include a specific reason for such denial. This rule does not apply to prior authorization requests for medications.

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For more information, contact:

John D. Fanburg, Chair | 973.403.3107 | jfanburg@bracheichler.com

Edward Hilzenrath | 973.403.3114 | ehilzenrath@bracheichler.com

Erika R. Marshall | 973.364.5236 | emarshall@bracheichler.com