



IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY

Expand the Physician Workforce

- Iowa faces a physician shortage crisis, ranking 44th in the nation for physicians per capita.
- This means longer patient wait times, greater workloads, and higher physician burnout.
- Governor Reynolds proposed a robust plan to bolster the physician workforce by:
 - Increasing the number of residency slots at Iowa teaching hospitals by 115/year.
 - Streamlining and increasing funding for health care loan repayment programs to support high demand specialties and practice locations for individuals who commit to practice in Iowa.
 - Investing in maternal health care Medicaid rates.
- IMS appreciates the Governor's focus on the healthcare workforce as Iowa competes with other states to attract and retain physicians.
- Support Governor Reynold's health care workforce package to bolster the physician workforce.

Reform Prior Authorization

- Prior authorization the requirement that physicians obtain pre-approval from a health insurance carrier before the patient receives coverage for a medical treatment.
- This practice is an administrative burden that prevents patients from receiving care - Physicians spend approximately 45 minutes on paperwork for every 30 minutes of patient care.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of physicians report prior authorizations contribute to burnout, causing physicians to exit the workforce.
- Prior authorizations result in care delays, treatment abandonment, increased costs to the healthcare system, and adverse health events.
- Support HSB 19 / SSB 1016 to reduce the administrative burden of prior authorization and ensure patients receive timely healthcare services.