



March 30, 2022

The Honorable Brian Kemp  
Governor, State of Georgia  
203 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: GA SB 341 – Prior Authorizations for Medications Used to Treat Chronic Conditions

Dear Governor Kemp,

On behalf of the nearly 840 people with cystic fibrosis (CF) in Georgia, we are writing to express our support for SB 341, which would require that prior authorizations (PAs) for medications used to treat chronic conditions remain valid for a duration of 12 months. Prior authorizations can delay access to critical CF therapies and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supports efforts to enhance the efficiency of the PA process and minimize the administrative burden it imposes on patients and their providers. Your signature will help ensure immediate and consistent access to critical therapies for Georgians with CF.

#### **About Cystic Fibrosis**

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects more than 30,000 children and adults in the United States. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. Cystic fibrosis is both serious and progressive; lung damage caused by infection is irreversible and can have a lasting impact on length and quality of life. As a complex, multi-system disease, CF requires an intensive treatment regimen including multiple medications. While these therapies are helping people with CF live longer, healthier lives, patients often encounter administrative barriers to accessing them.

#### **Prior Authorizations for Medications Used to Treat Chronic Conditions**

Prior authorizations are one obstacle all patients must navigate when getting care, but they present a unique set of challenges for people with CF and other chronic diseases who adhere to intensive, ongoing treatment plans. Adults with CF require an average of seven therapies every day, and as many as twenty.<sup>1</sup> Many of these medications are taken year after year, and in most cases, for life. Unnecessary prior authorizations can delay the start or continuation of needed treatments, leading to adverse health outcomes. Since CF is a progressive disease, interruptions in care put patients at risk of irreversible lung damage and costly hospitalizations.

Prior authorizations can also cause significant administrative burden for CF providers and are often redundant for medications that people with CF must take indefinitely to maintain their health. In a 2019 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation survey of over 100 CF care center directors, 60 percent cited the time and resources required for PAs as one of the biggest barriers they face in supporting access to care and treatment. This process diverts valuable time and resources away from direct patient care.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2680350/>

**SB 341 would eliminate unnecessary repeat authorizations by requiring that PAs for chronic conditions remain valid for 12 months.**

The CF Foundation recognizes that PA policies were adopted to ensure patients only receive medically necessary care and we understand the challenge insurers face in managing the use of certain medications. However, utilization management cannot come at the expense of delays in patient access to needed care. SB 341 provides an opportunity to make the prior authorization process more efficient and promote consistent access to life-saving CF therapies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Dwight", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mary B. Dwight  
Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer  
Senior Vice President, Policy & Advocacy  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation