



September 30, 2026

The Honorable Bob Onder, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Landsman
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: MGMA's Support for the Protecting Approved Care Act

Dear Representatives Onder and Landsman,

On behalf of our member medical group practices, the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) writes to thank you for introducing the Protecting Approved Care Act. With a membership of more than 60,000 medical practice administrators, executives, and leaders, MGMA represents more than 15,000 medical group practices ranging from small private medical practices to large national health systems representing more than 350,000 physicians. We strongly support this legislation, which will prohibit Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations from reversing payment decisions or downcoding after the plan approves prior authorization for an item or service.

Prior authorization, denials, and downcoding in MA are three of the top five administrative burdens for medical groups in 2026.¹ These excessive utilization tactics delay care, undermine appropriate physician payment, and force practices to divert resources from patient care into unnecessary administrative tasks. Prior authorization is an increasing challenge for practices because approval to perform a service does not guarantee payment. Without policy intervention, participating in MA will become untenable for many practices, and MA beneficiaries may face more barriers to accessing care.

The Protecting Approved Care Act helps ensure practices are not denied payment for services approved by MA organizations. The legislation prohibits MA organizations from denying coverage, reopening a determination of coverage or payment, or changing the code assigned to a claim for services granted prior authorization. It also applies these prohibitions to services that do not require prior authorization. Together, these provisions will reduce administrative burden for practices contracting with MA organizations and hold them responsible for paying for services provided. These guardrails will protect practices from predatory MA utilization tactics and make participation in the program more feasible.

We appreciate your longstanding leadership in supporting medical group practices and look forward to working with your office to advance this important legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Madison Hynes, Associate Director of Government Affairs, at mhynes@mgma.org or 202-558-0972.

Sincerely,

/s/

Anders M. Gilberg
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

¹ Medical Group Management Association's [2026 Regulatory Burden Report](#), page 3.