



*Representing the advocacy interests
of hospitals and health systems on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley*

SUPPORT

MEMORANDUM

May 24, 2018

TO: Members, Long Island Delegation of the New York State Senate
Members, Hudson Valley Delegation of the New York State Senate

FROM: Kevin W. Dahill, President and CEO

RE: S.3568 (Hannon) — In Senate Insurance Committee
A.1129 (Hunter) — Passed the Assembly on 1/22/18

A.1129/S.3568 would amend insurance law to include concurrent symptoms and side effects in prior authorization exceptions. **The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State strongly supports this bill.**

Under the current law, prior authorization for surgical procedures extends to related, medically necessary services that may arise during the procedure initially authorized. Claims for the additional care can only be denied if the treatment was not considered a covered benefit, or if upon review, the treatment was deemed not to have been medically necessary. Health plans cannot deny claims for related services that were not previously authorized for purely administrative purposes. The law helps to ensure patients get the right care at the right time and that providers get reimbursed for unexpected medically necessary and life-saving treatments.

For similar reasons, concurrent symptoms and side effects should also be considered exceptions to prior authorization requirements. For example, if a patient is receiving chemotherapy that has been authorized, treatment for nausea, allergic reactions or low blood count should be covered under the umbrella of that authorization. Requiring providers to obtain separate prior authorization for the related treatments delays care and could cause harm to the patient. Similar situations could arise with surgeries that do not require sedation, wound care treatment and dermatological procedures. The bill maintains protections for the health plans in the event that services are not medically necessary but would limit their ability to deny claims for purely administrative purposes.

For the reasons cited above, the Suburban Hospital Alliance urges your support for A.1129/S.3568.