Prior authorizations — also known as precertifications, prior approval, pre-authorization, or pre-authorization — are requests made by healthcare providers to insurance plans to determine if a treatment or service will be covered for a patient. These requests are necessary and unavoidable. They also cost your organization time and money and contribute to physician burnout. How did we get here? What are the options for managing prior authorizations?

### Statistics

- **81,000** procedures reviewed per hour by a payer
- **16.6 hours** spent in the average prior authorization process
- **29.1 hours** spent in the average prior authorization process

### Options for sharing responsibilities

**Fully electronic:**
- The best EHRs are constantly learning from their network, which is part of the reason why providers prefer them to other methods. These EHRs have pre-built rules and can be set up with payer rules and criteria. They allow for the automation of the process from start to finish.

**In-house staffing:**
- **2.7 doctors** for every **8 employees**

**Outsource:**
- **32%** of organizations report that some of their prior authorization requirements are outsourced to other departments.

### Transaction methods

- **Manual:**
  - Takes time and money and contributes to physician burnout. How did we get here? What are the options for managing prior authorizations?

- **Fully electronic:**
  - Faster transactions save payers and providers both money and time, while improving care.

### Prior authorizations: relieving the burden

By 2018, these companies multiply, so do their custom review processes. By 2018, these have become prevalent by the 1950s. Due to rising access to healthcare and other factors, "medical necessity" checks, but don't have the tools or resources to standardize.

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### How we got here

3. **Medical Group Management Association. 2017.** "Medical practice leaders say prior authorization requirements continue to rise."
5. **CoverMyMeds.com. 2017.** "A Brief History of How We Got to Electronic Prior Authorization."
6. **American Board of Family Medicine.**
8. **Medical Group Management Association. 2017.** "Medical practice leaders say prior authorization requirements continue to rise."
11. **Medical Group Management Association. 2017.** "Medical practice leaders say prior authorization requirements continue to rise."
14. **American Board of Family Medicine.**