

From: [K Wilmering](#)
To: [OIC Rules Coordinator](#)
Subject: Revising the prior authorization process (R 2023-02)
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External Email

As a psychiatric nurse practitioner, I support the requirements for a more rapid resolution of prior authorization requests submitted electronically.

I would like to see the same standard applied to non-electronic requests, and here is why: Covermymeds is a system used by most pharmacy managers. On the surface it seems like just what we want: a simple interface for exchanging information about a prescription for the patient. However, the “privacy” policy it requires me to agree to puts me in a position of compromising my patient’s privacy. In one place it states:

CoverMyMeds may establish business relationships with certain economic sponsors, such as pharmaceutical manufacturers and payors, to facilitate the Services and may share protected health information pursuant to a valid HIPAA Authorization that complies with 45 CFR 164 to support certain program drugs prescribed to the patient.

This may be technically legal, but I don’t consider it ethical for me to consent to the private information I provide on my patient being used for marketing to them.

And in another place,

You acknowledge and agree that CoverMyMeds or its affiliate may also engage directly with patients, and CoverMyMeds or its affiliate may use and disclose PHI pursuant to an authorization that complies with 45 CFR 164.

It is not ethical for me to consent to a commercial entity’s engaging with my patients for the entity’s potential financial gain.

This means each time a patient needs a prior authorization, I have to call the company and verbally request one, which under these rules would give the company 5 calendar days to respond. Patients should not have to give up their privacy to receive a timely review of their request.

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