Prior Authorization Policies for Pediatric ADHD Medication Prescriptions

In response to the increased number of U.S. children taking attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medications, 27 state Medicaid programs have implemented policies to manage access to ADHD medications. These policies, typically called prescription prior authorization policies, prevent children younger than age 18 years from receiving coverage for ADHD medications without the child meeting additional criteria that are furnished by the prescriber. More maps and tables are available at www.lawatlas.org.

**ADHD Prior Authorization Policies for Children Younger Than Age 6 Years**

Sixteen states have a prior authorization policy in their Medicaid programs that prevents children younger than age 6 years from receiving coverage for ADHD medication prescriptions without additional prescriber involvement.

Jurisdictions: 16 (AR, AZ, FL, ID, IL, MA, ME, MO, MS, NH, NV, NY, OR, UT, VA, WV)

**Rejection of Other Treatable Causes is a Criterion for Prior Authorization**

Two states expressly ask a prescriber to confirm whether other treatable causes for the patient’s symptoms, aside from ADHD, have been rejected before authorization is granted for ADHD medication prescriptions for children.

Jurisdictions: 2 (LA, NV)

**Consideration of Non-medication Alternatives is a Criterion for Prior Authorization**

Seven states ask a prescriber whether behavioral therapy or other non-medication treatments have been considered before prior authorization is granted for ADHD medication prescriptions for children.

Jurisdictions: 7 (AZ, FL, IL, LA, MA, VA, WV)