



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 931 without my signature.

Beginning January 1, 2025, this bill would prohibit a health plan or insurer from requiring prior authorization for the initial 12 physical therapy treatment visits for a new episode of care. The bill would also require that, prior to treatment, the provider verify an enrollee's coverage and disclose the enrollee's cost sharing, maximum out-of-pocket expense per visit, and whether the provider is in-network for the enrollee.

I appreciate the author's intent to increase access to physical therapy treatment. However, prior authorization, when applied appropriately, can be an important tool to contain health care costs, protect patients from unanticipated billing, and ensure medically necessary care. Further, existing law requires health plans to provide appointments within a timely access minimum standard, even when prior authorization is required.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

