

# BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION OF NORTH CAROLINA



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Dear Legislator,

Thank you for taking a moment to consider the issues affecting the bleeding disorders community.

The Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina (BDFNC) is the only nonprofit organization in North Carolina dedicated to serving people affected by bleeding disorders in the state. Hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other inherited factor deficiencies and platelet disorders are life-threatening bleeding disorders that affect both men and women. These are genetically inherited conditions that people struggle with across the lifespan. There is no cure for any of these conditions, only treatment. But when properly treated, a person with a bleeding disorder can lead a virtually normal, productive life.

**An issue that is negatively impacting patients with bleeding disorders across the state of North Carolina is the burdensome process of prior authorization.** Prior authorization is a cost-containment process implemented by health insurers to determine whether they will approve coverage for a treatment plan or prescription drug. The current prior authorization process erodes a patient's ability to receive quality and timely treatment by creating access to care problems. The American Medical Association believes prior authorization requests are overused processes that present significant administrative and clinical concerns.

Insurers now commonly require repeat prior authorization for most expensive medicines, and even for generic medications with no cheaper or more effective alternatives. Bleeding disorders medications are high-cost treatments with no alternatives. Requiring this medication to be pre-approved multiple times a year, through a lengthy and arcane process, creates unnecessary burdens for doctors and causes unnecessary delays for patients. Persons with bleeding disorders cannot afford the disruptions to care that the current prior authorization process often creates because any type of delay of care means risking more bleeds, permanent joint damage, hospitalization, and even death.

Last session the House passed HB 649: *Ensure Timely/Clinically Sound Utiliz. Review* by a unanimous vote. This bill is currently under consideration in the Senate Rules Committee. **We support HB 649** because of its alignment with the goals of empowering healthcare providers and ensuring access to patient-centered health insurance. **We ask for your support to pass this bill in this year's short session.** If this bill cannot be passed this session, we ask for your support in creating a less burdensome prior authorization process moving forward.

BDFNC welcomes the opportunity to work with the General Assembly to reform the prior authorization process and any other issues that impact care for those with bleeding disorders.

Best Regards,

Charlene Cowell, MPA  
Executive Director

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