

# NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



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# OVERVIEW

- Policy Overview
- Political Overview



# PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM


## HB 649 – Ensure Timely and Clinically Sound Utilization Reviews

- Sponsored by Rep. Kristin Baker, M.D. and Rep. Tim Reeder, M.D.
- Sets time limits for utilization reviews based on medical care level and provides timeframes in which insurers must make decisions based on the urgency of the need for treatment
- “Gold card” standard modeled after Texas
- Overwhelming House vote, but health plan opposition blocked consideration by Senate
- Broad support from NCOA, NCMS physician specialty groups, hospitals, PhRMA, and patient groups
- Seeking media engagement
- ***Continued top medical community priority***



# BCBS OPPOSITION

## Affordable Healthcare Coalition of North Carolina

**AHC of NC** Affordable Healthcare Coalition of North Carolina  @AHCofNC · Apr 25 ···  
"But the truth is that prior authorizations are a critical tool to help ensure patient safety. And as the VA study shows, in some cases, it can be the difference between life and death." #ncga #ncpol



From [affordablecarenc.com](http://affordablecarenc.com)

10

4

2

91K

# PBM REGULATION

- HB 246 passed North Carolina House
  - Rep. Sasser is lead sponsor but is retiring
- Strong opposition from health plans
- No Senate action

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE APRN LEGISLATION

## The SAVE Act

- HB 218/SB 175
- Growing third party support (BCBSNC, Atrium, think tanks)
- SAVE Act included in 2023 Senate Medicaid proposal
- Senate Health Committee debate in 2024
- Opposed by House leadership and some key Senators
  - Physician leadership in House



# NC PATIENT SAFETY COALITION

- The NCOA, along with NCMS and other specialties, formed a new entity that engaged in communication efforts on scope of practice
  - Website
  - Blog posts
  - Social media
  - Grassroots communications (texts)
  - Paid media (digital ads)

# NC PATIENT SAFETY COALITION



## Study Proves Physician-Led Medical Care Is The Most Effective & Efficient

**February 6, 2023**

Physician-led care reduces cost and leads to better health outcomes. That's the conclusion of a recent study of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) emergency departments.

The federal [study](#) states, “compared to physicians, NPs [nurse practitioners] use more medical resources: They require longer lengths of stay and incur higher costs. However, they achieve less favorable patient outcomes, as measured by 30-day preventable hospitalizations.”





# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LEGISLATION

- Physician Assistant-Team Based Practice
  - HB 75 (Passed House and Senate)
  - Conference Committee
- Viewed by NCMS as a possible model for APRN compromise
  - Only modifies supervision if practicing in “team-based” setting

# MEDICAID EXPANSION

## Coverage Expansion

- Began December 1, 2023
  - Over 400,000 new Medicaid beneficiaries (with more expected to enroll)
- Coverage expansion for adults making up to 138% of the federal poverty line

## Hospital Assessment Payments (HASP)

## Certificate of Need

- Eliminates CON for certain mental health facilities and beds
- In counties with more than 125,000, CON ambulatory surgery centers and MRIs will be phased out as follows:
  - ASC: two years after first HASP payment
  - MRI: three years after first HASP payment

# NC POLITICAL OVERVIEW

## Redistricting:

- New congressional and redistricting maps
- NC congressional delegation may change from 7 Republicans and 7 Democrats to 10/4 or 11/3 GOP majority

## Legislative Leadership Changes:

- Speaker Tim Moore (longest-serving Speaker in North Carolina history) running for Congress
- Representative Destin Hall (R-Caldwell) will be the next Speaker

## Hotly Contested Governor's Race

### Physicians Running for N.C. General Assembly:

- Tim Reeder, MD (Pitt)
- Grant Campbell, MD (Cabarrus/Rowan)
  - Replacing Rep. Kristin Baker, MD
- Other physician candidates



# Questions?





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