

How Utilization Management Harms Vision Patients



VISION ACCESS

Millions of Americans have a vision condition. Individualized treatment is critical to prevent irreversible damage, mitigate painful symptoms or even cure certain vision conditions.

But sometimes, health plans' utilization management tactics block access to treatment.

IMPACT ON VISION PATIENTS

Insurance delays and denials hurt vision patients. Some patients may have their sight irreversibly deteriorate while waiting for appropriate treatment.

Timely and uninterrupted access to prescribed treatment is critical for patients to manage their vision condition.

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT TACTICS



Prior authorization delays appropriate care for patients. It forces patients and providers to get the insurer's approval before patients can access their clinician-prescribed treatment.



Step therapy forces patients to try and fail alternative medications preferred by the insurer before they can access their prescribed medication. This interferes with patients' access to appropriate care, undermines the patient-provider relationship, and can lead to worsening symptoms and unnecessary side effects.



Non-medical switching pushes stable patients off their current medication and onto a drug that's less expensive or more profitable for the insurers. Insurers may eliminate coverage of the drug altogether, thus increasing the patient's out-of-pocket costs. Patients must either switch to the alternative treatment or pay the full cost of their prescribed medication.

Sight is vital. Policymakers can't afford to turn a blind eye on vision patients' access to appropriate treatment.