

Urge Governor Hochul to Sign A.879 (Gottfried)/S.8113 (Cleary) to Require Health Insurers to Have Appropriately Trained Reviewers

Important patient protection legislation passed the Assembly and Senate at the end of the 2022 legislative session that would establish necessary qualifications for a person with whom a health plan must consult before deciding to deny coverage for a patient's treatment or prescription medication. It would ensure that a health plan may not deny a request for needed patient care unless the reviewing physician is board-certified or board eligible in the same or similar specialty as the physician recommending the patient treatment. It would also require that such a physician have a New York license to practice medicine.

To demonstrate the need for this important legislation to become law, MSSNY conducted a survey of its members and found the following:

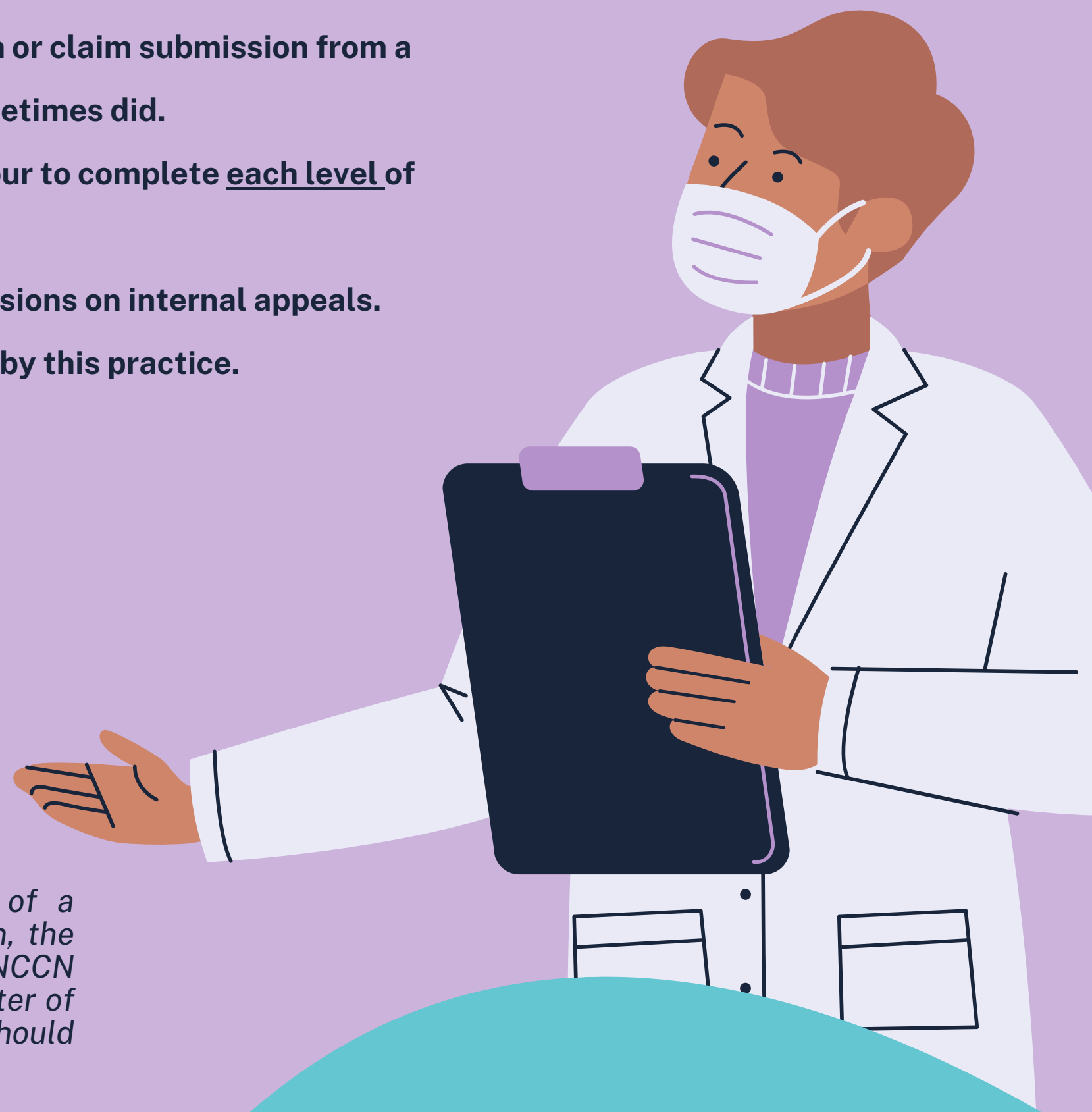
- 86% had a pre-authorization request or claim submission denied by an insurer based on the review of a health care provider that didn't specialize in their specialty.
- 42% of the respondents frequently had pre-authorization or claim submission from a physician not in the same specialty and 77% at least sometimes did.
- 51% reported that the filing process took between 2-5 hour to complete each level of the internal appeals process.
- 45% said it took 7-10 days for health plans to render decisions on internal appeals.
- Oncology (cancer care) was the specialty most impacted by this practice.

What Physicians Are Saying

"This is becoming very common even with medicines the patients have been taking for years."

"Despite submitting appropriate documentation for the use of a targeted therapy in a patient that has that targetable mutation, the preferred, Category 1 recommendation as designated by NCCN Guidelines was denied. I had to submit an appeal and write a letter of medical necessity. This delay wasted days for a treatment that should have been approved without question initially."

"The appeals process should be streamlined and any appeal should be reviewed in timely fashion by a physician in the same specialty or sub specialty. Anything else creates problems for the patient because the reviewer in another special he does not understand the particulars of that specialty."



Please contact Governor Hochul TODAY & urge her to sign to sign A.879 (Gottfried)/S.8113 (Cleare) into law as soon as possible!
<https://p2a.co/dkFrkxd>