

A red rectangular sign with the words "ON AIR" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

Health Freedom Minute

February 4, 2026

The Cost of Prior Authorization

A physician and I were discussing Medicare Advantage and the hospitals refusing to contract with Medicare Advantage due to prior authorization denials. We discussed how CMS has just begun in six states to bring the prior authorization restrictions of Medicare Advantage into Original Medicare, taking away today's freedom to treat patients freely.

The doctor shared an insight. When she practiced, she could afford to take Original Medicare's low payments only because it did not require prior authorization and all the extra work it takes to try to get health plans to pay for care.

Thus, bringing prior authorization into Original Medicare will likely mean fewer doctors willing to treat Medicare patients.

LinkedIn Post by Christine Meyer, MD, January 23, 2026:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/christinemeyermd_this-has-officially-crossed-from-frustrating-activity-7420208072654032896-k6KK?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAA DhJYNUBe59qA0x031Z-n-DPsr5Npis7kRE

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 48 states:
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