

# ADVOCACY

| Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and Their Patients Since 1903 |

## February 12-16, 2024 ~ Session Update

### A Busy First Week

Wyoming's 67th Legislature convened the 2024 Budget Session on Monday, February 12. The 2024 Legislative Session is a short, 20-day session intended to prioritize the fiscal operations of the state.

WMS leadership met virtually on Saturday, February 10, to make important decisions on a variety of policy proposals slated for debate this year. The Board consults the [WMS Policy Platforms](#) when deciding how to guide WMS advocacy efforts each year. Members can see the legislation being tracked by WMS, the advocacy positions set by our leadership and the status of each bill on our [Legislative Bill Tracker](#).

The timeline during budget sessions is far tighter than in general sessions. All draft legislation was due in final form to the Legislative Service Office (LSO) by Wednesday, 2/14, and **all bills were required to pass the initial 2/3 introductory vote threshold by 6 pm Friday, 2/16**. 18 of the 38 bills being monitored by WMS had failed to advance in the process by Friday evening leaving 20 remaining in the mix to advocate for or against. The next important deadline comes next Wednesday, 2/21, when all bills and senate files must be reported out of committee in their house of origin.

[WMS Legislative Bill Tracker](#)

## WMS Doc and PA of the Day

Thank you to our WMS members for volunteering to serve as Doc and PA of the Day. This week, the legislature appreciated the following WMS volunteers:

Jason Bloomberg, MD *(pictured right)*

Tom Radosevich, MD

There are two days available to volunteer for Doc or PA of the Day - February 28 & 29.

WMS is proud of this program which provides a great opportunity for WMS members to provide a valuable service to the legislature and have a front-row seat to the legislative process.

Email [info@wyomed.org](mailto:info@wyomed.org) if you're interested in spending a day at the Capitol with us!



Information about Doc and PA of the Day

## Week One Highlights

### Prior Authorization Reform

**House Bill 14 - Prior authorization regulations** was heard in the House Labor, Health and Social Services Committee on Wednesday, 2/14. In what felt like a truly unprecedented moment, stakeholders and advocates from Cigna, CVS Caremark/Aetna, Mountain Health Co-Op, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming along with the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Hospital Association all testified together in support of the legislation. While all nine of us tightly squeezed in seats across the front of the room made for a funny picture, it conveyed a serious and important statement of unity. The group, together, presented the package of **compromise amendments** representing painstaking negotiations and good-faith compromise by our industry partners and representatives of physicians and hospitals. The Committee voted unanimously to favor the bill and send it to the House for further approval. **HB14 passed second reading Friday evening.** A recording of the hearing can be found **HERE**.

Below is the information that was shared with legislators encouraging their "aye" vote supporting the passage of this important, priority legislation for WMS this year.

# SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 14

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REGULATIONS



### What is Prior Authorization (PA)?

PA is a process used by insurance companies that requires health care providers to get insurance approval, or authorization, before they can provide a service or write a prescription in order for the service or prescription to be covered by the patient's insurance plan.

### What does House Bill 14 - Prior Authorization Regulations - do?

HB 14, as amended, brings much-needed and long overdue regulation to the insurance practice of prior authorization.

### House Bill 14 requires:

- **Transparency** for current and changing requirements or restrictions
- Opportunities for **provider peer to peer consultation** after a denied request;
- **Response times** of 72 hours for urgent requests and 5 calendar days for non-urgent requests;
- Duration of **authorizations of not less than a year** and prohibition on revoking or limiting a prior authorization that was previously approved;
- **Continuity of care** for patients by requiring insurance companies to honor authorizations from previous health plans for 90 days;
- **Provider exemptions from prior authorization** burdens and paperwork when certain criteria are met often referred to as "**Gold Card**".

### House Bill 14 prohibits any insurance company from:

- Requiring **prior authorizations for medications for opioid use disorder**;
- Requiring a patient to **repeat previously failed step therapy protocols**; and
- Requiring **prior authorizations for rehabilitative or habilitative services**.



WYOMING  
MEDICAL  
SOCIETY

**VOTE AYE  
ON HB 14**  
*As Amended*



## Parental rights in minor child's health care

**House Bill 44 - Parental rights in minor child's health care** was heard in the House Labor, Health and Social Services Committee on Friday, 2/16, and will continue to be heard Monday morning, 2/19.

The bill proposes to repeal two independent sections of existing statute ([W.S. 14-1-101 \(b\) \(vi\)](#) and [W.S. 35-4-113 \(b\) \(i\)](#)) that both ensure access to care for Wyoming

patients. WMS policy platforms list access to care as a priority tenet of our work and opposed House Bill 44 out of concern for the barriers it would create for patients to access care and the negative unintended consequences it would have in emergencies.

**W.S. 14-1-101 (b)** A minor may consent to health care treatment to the same extent as if he were an adult when any one (1) or more of the following circumstances apply: **(vi)** The minor is twelve (12) years of age or older, is a smoker or user of tobacco products and the health care to which the minor consents is a tobacco cessation program approved by the department of health pursuant to W.S. 9-4-1204.

The second section proposed for repeal is:

**W.S. 35-4-113 (b)** During a public health emergency, the state health officer may subject a person to vaccination or medical treatment without consent in the following circumstances: **(i)** If the parent, legal guardian or other adult person authorized to consent to medical treatment of a minor child cannot be located and consulted and the vaccination of or medical treatment for the minor child is reasonably needed to protect the public health or protect the minor child from disease, death, disability or suffering.

The second of these sections was adopted into Wyoming law during the 2003 session after the Joint Transportation Committee at the time dedicated the 2002 interim to amending the state's public health statutes in response to the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and better positioning Wyoming to respond to any future attacks or public health events.

WMS testified in opposition to this bill and is urging legislators to defeat the proposal in committee Monday. Members can view the video by clicking [HERE](#).

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## Thank you Friends of WMS

The support of our Friends is invaluable to WMS advocacy efforts

[Learn more about our Friends](#)

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## How To Connect and Stay Engaged

Use [wyoleg.gov](http://wyoleg.gov) to learn more about this year's legislative process. Below are quick links to important information.

[Daily Calendars](#) including floor calendars, audio streams, and committee schedules

[Bill Listing](#) that includes all legislative proposals posted for the 2024 Session

As always, Executive Director Sheila Bush welcomes and invites any and all communication. If you have questions about the status of a bill, want to provide feedback or input on legislation, have questions about using [THE WIRE](#), or want to share your thoughts on any other aspect of the WMS advocacy work, please email her at [sheila@wyomed.org](mailto:sheila@wyomed.org) or call her cell phone at [307-630-8602](tel:307-630-8602).



# Wyoming Medical Society

*Advocating for doctors and their patients since 1903*

Wyoming Medical Society | 122 E 17th St, Cheyenne, WY 82001

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