

# Update on the Electronic Prior Authorization Landscape

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Coral Springs, Florida



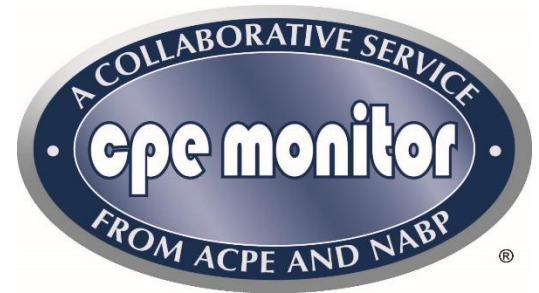
# Learning Objectives

**At the completion of this activity, participants should be able to:**

1. Explain how advanced payer portals can improve the prior authorization process and patient access to medication.
2. Discuss the financial and clinical impact of payer portals.
3. Describe how industry front-runners are using technology to manage prior authorization for medications and therapy covered under both the pharmacy and medical benefits.
4. Summarize key prior authorization trends, costs and options available to automate prior authorization of medications.

# Continuing Pharmacy Education Credit

- Log-in to AMCP Learn at <http://amcplearn.org/>
  - **\*PLEASE NOTE: USE THIS EXACT URL**
- Follow instructions available on [amcpmeetings.org](http://amcpmeetings.org)
- Have available:
  - NABP e-profile ID
  - Birth month and birthday
  - Session-specific attendance code
- Complete and submit session evaluation no later than May 23, 2016 (5:00 PM ET)
- Information in CPE Monitor approximately 72 hours after submission completion



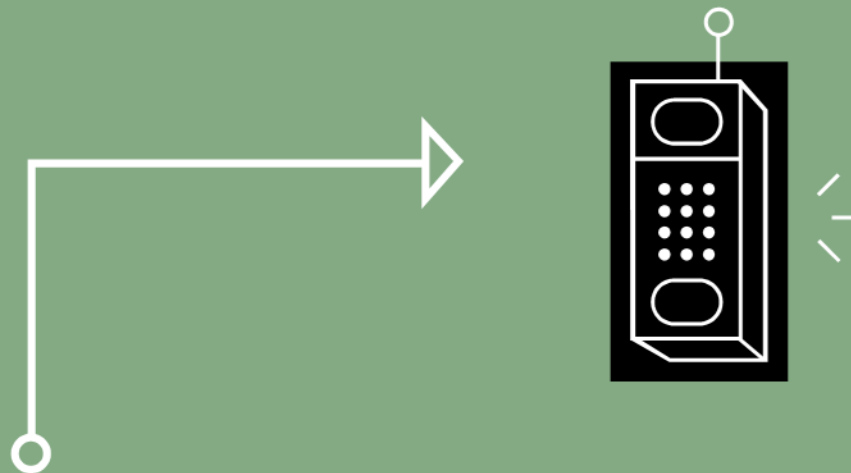
# Financial Relationship Disclosures

- James R. Lang reports having no financial relationships with any commercial interests during the past 12 months.
- Tony Schueth is the owner of Point-of-Care Partners, LLC and reports having no other personal financial relationships with any commercial interests during the past 12 months.

*This slide deck was peer reviewed to mitigate any risk of bias.*

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- This session will be monitored for any antitrust violations and will be stopped by the session monitor if any such violation occurs.
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**Please Silence All Devices**

# Faculty

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# PRE-TEST



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# Learning Assessment Question #1

How can web-based utilization management (UM) solutions improve the prior authorization process?

- a. PA approval delivered in real-time, improving patient access to medications
- b. One solution for all distribution channels
- c. Approval is automatically entered into the claim system
- d. All of the above

**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 22133
- b. 22138
- c. 23224
- d. 23784

## Learning Assessment Question #2

Which of the following is not needed to ensure clinical relevance of web-based UM programs?

- a. Deep dive into the medical data to identify opportunities for improvement
- b. Evaluation of the specialty pipeline
- c. Implementation of Specialty Drug Workgroup to manage the clinical criteria development
- d. Coordination with EHR vendors

**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 24665
- b. 27842
- c. 27843
- d. 27846

# Learning Assessment Question #3

Which of the following are stakeholder benefits for electronic prior authorization (ePA)?

- a. Reduced prescription abandonment; improved medication adherence
- b. Saves prescribers 20-60 minutes per PA; saves payers \$20-\$25 per submission
- c. Immediate notification of drugs requiring PA before ePrescribing
- d. All of the above

**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 30071
- b. 30414
- c. 30535
- d. 31143

# Learning Assessment Question #4

Which of the following are considered best practices for automating prior authorization of medications?

- a. Implement applicable NCPDP message types
- b. Transition from retrospective to prospective ePA
- c. Monitor ePA legislative mandates
- d. All of the above

**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 28081
- b. 29943
- c. 29944
- d. 29946

# Agenda

- **Prior Authorization Landscape**
  - Definition and Gaps
  - Interim PA Automation
- **Case Study: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan**
- **Implementing ePA in Prescriber Workflow**
  - ePA Roadmap
  - Use of Transaction Standards
  - Real-Time Formulary and Benefit Data

# The Prior Authorization Landscape



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# Defining Prior Authorization

Prior Authorization is a cost-savings feature that helps ensure the safe and appropriate use of selected prescription drugs and medical procedures.

- Criteria based on clinical guidelines and medical literature
- Selection of PA drug list and criteria can vary by payer
- *For our purposes, PA here does not include quantity limits, step therapy or other protocols*

PATIENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PATIENT ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
PATIENT DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICIAN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYSICIAN PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHYSICIAN FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What drug is being prescribed? ☐ Omnitrope ☐ Saizen ☐ Serostim ☐ Genotropin ☐ Humatrope ☐ Norditropin ☐ Nutropin ☐ Tev-Tropin ☐ Zorbtive ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is patient currently on Increlex? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. If patient is on Incerlex, will the Incerlex be discontinued? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Does the patient have any of the following contraindications to GH therapy? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
• Active or history of malignancy within the past 12 months  
• Diabetic retinopathy  
• Acute critical illness

5. What is the specialty of the prescribing physician? ☐ Endocrinology ☐ Gastroenterology ☐ Support ☐ Nephrology ☐ Infectious Disease ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the diagnosis? ☐ Pediatric growth hormone deficiency syndrome ☐ Neonatal hypoglycemia syndrome ☐ Growth failure due to chronic renal insufficiency ☐ Small for gestational age syndrome ☐ Idiopathic short stature ☐ Adult growth hormone deficiency ☐ Panhypopituitarism related wasting/cachexia ☐ Short bowel syndrome ☐ Short stature homeobox-containing (SHOXD) ☐ Noonan syndrome ☐ Combination treatment with leuprolide in children with advancing puberty ☐ Congenital adrenal hyperplasia ☐ Russell-Silver syndrome ☐ Septo-optic dysplasia ☐ Cystic fibrosis ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Please document patient's pre-treatment height \_\_\_\_\_ cm and age \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please document patient's provocative test results \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is the patient a neonate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Are epiphyses still open? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ X-ray not available

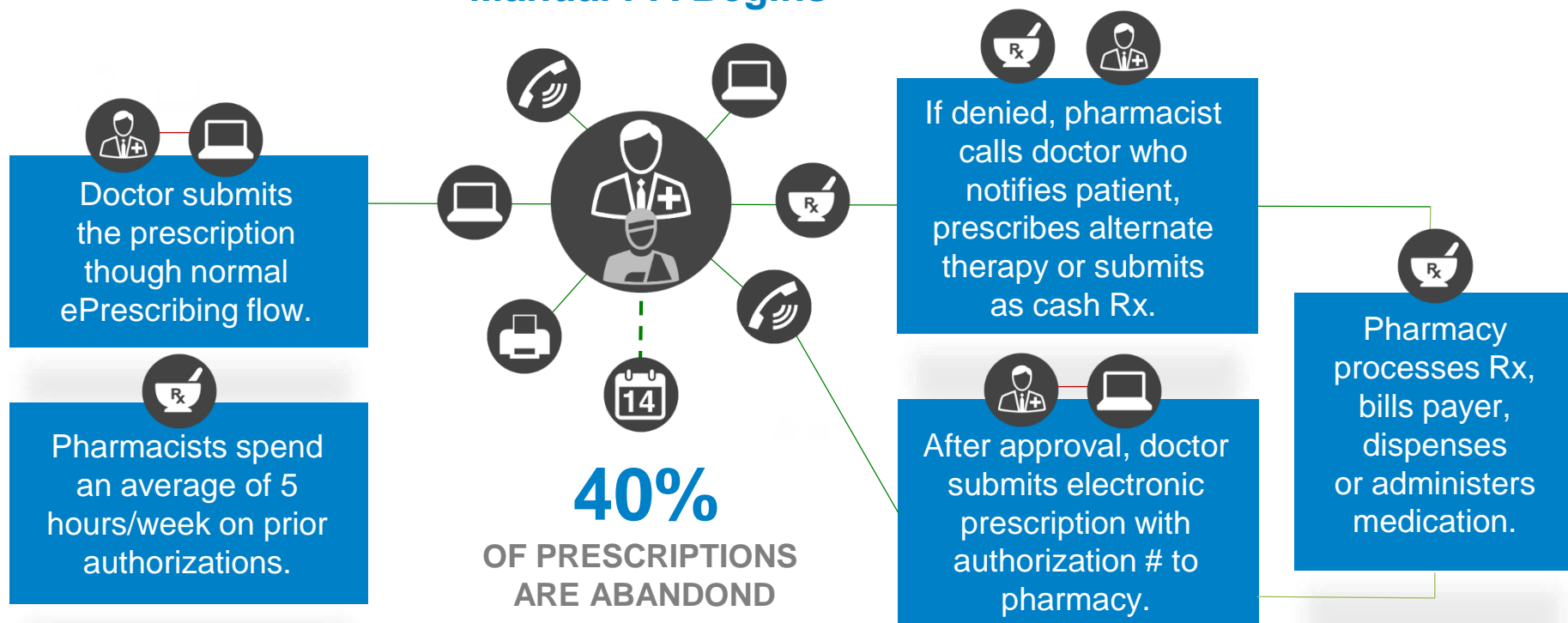
11. Is the patient currently on growth hormone therapy \*If yes, please skip to question # 24 ☐

EXAMPLE OF PAPER-BASED PA FORM



# Traditional Manual Prior Authorization Process

## Rx Pended/ Manual PA Begins



1. 2015 ePA National Adoption Scorecard
2. Point-of-Care Partners' Internal Data

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# Prior Authorization Impacts All Healthcare

## PATIENT HASSLE AND TREATMENT DELAY

- PA unknown until patient has already left office
- Treatment might be delayed for days



**Patients**



**Pharmacy**

## PHARMACY HASSLE

- Pharmacy must call prescriber's office, and sometimes the plan



**Prescribers**

## PRESCRIBER HASSLE AND DISRUPTION

- Call back from pharmacy, must call plan, wait for faxed form, completes form and sends it back
- Turnaround time can be 48 hours or more

## PHARMACEUTICAL OBSTACLES

- Delayed and abandoned prescriptions
- Extensive outlay for physician and patient administrative assistance



**Pharmaceutical Co.**



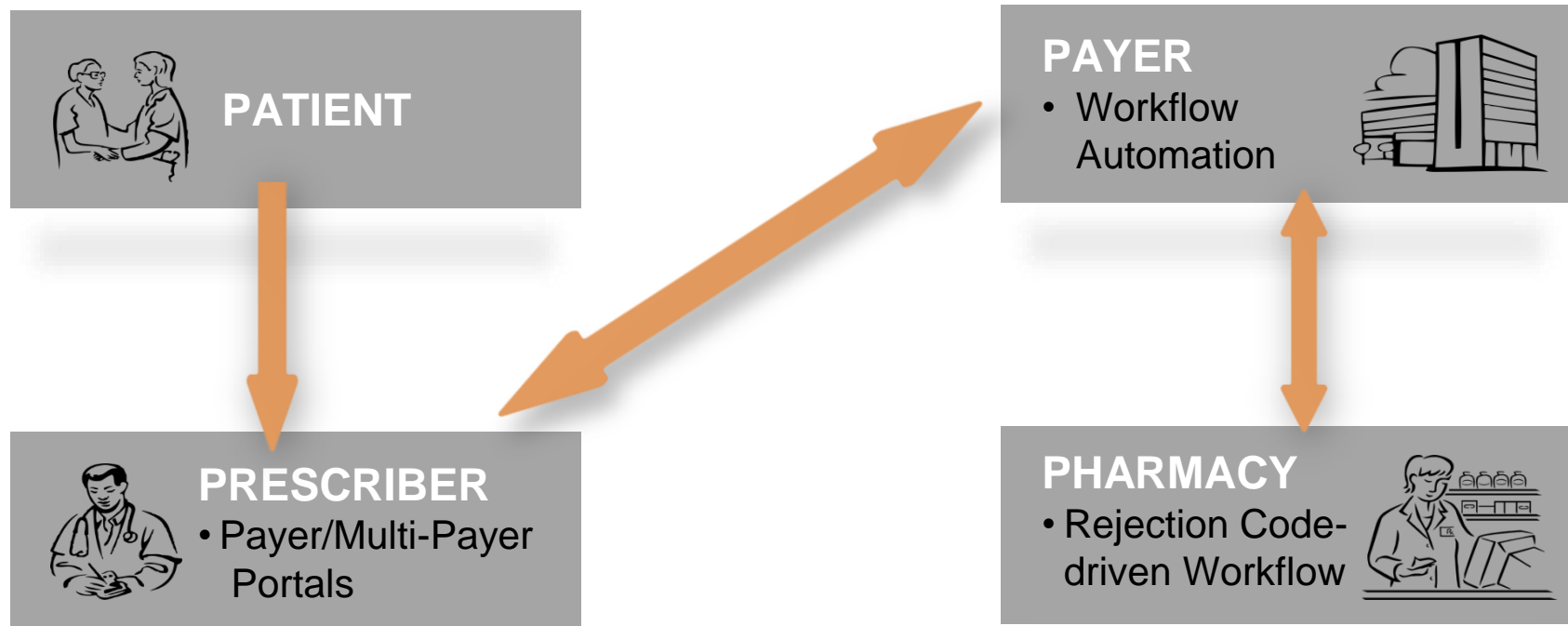
**PBM/  
Health Plan**

## PBM/HEALTH PLAN INEFFICIENCY

- Expensive and labor intensive process that creates animosity

## Prior Authorization Impact

# Interim PA Automation (non-ePA)



Until today, automation largely replicated the paper process requiring duplicate entry of information.

# Gaps in Current PA Activities

- Drug requiring PA flagged in only 20% - 40% of the cases
- Criteria not residing within EHR or visible to physician
- Does not automate the entire process – various workarounds that may or may not meld together
- Paper forms and portals require manual reentry of data that may already reside electronically within an EMR
- Multiple routes to obtain PA depending on health plan, drug, pharmacy, and patient combination

1. Point-of-Care Partners' Internal Data



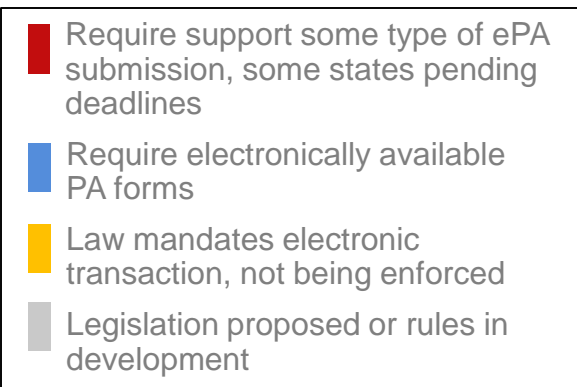
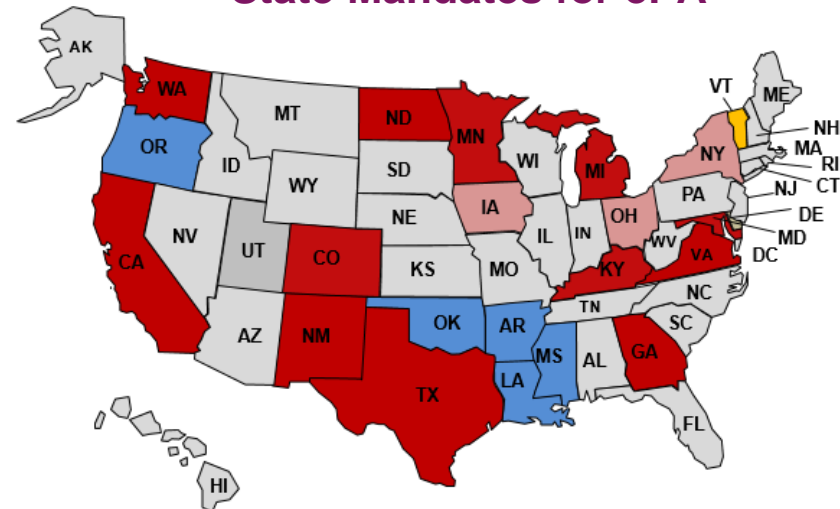
# ePA Being Implemented Nationally

## Ongoing Legislative and Regulatory Momentum

- Demand seems to be high to reform the entire prior authorization process and workflow
- Standard forms and ePA are a key component of this effort
- Payers are required to accept electronic submission of ePA—HCPs are not required to use ePA
- A separate website, portal or unconnected solution would meet these requirements

**Sessions have begun and legislative activity has picked up in 2016**

## State Mandates for ePA



Map SOURCE: Point-of-Care Partners, [www.pocp.com](http://www.pocp.com), Revised 1/15/2016  
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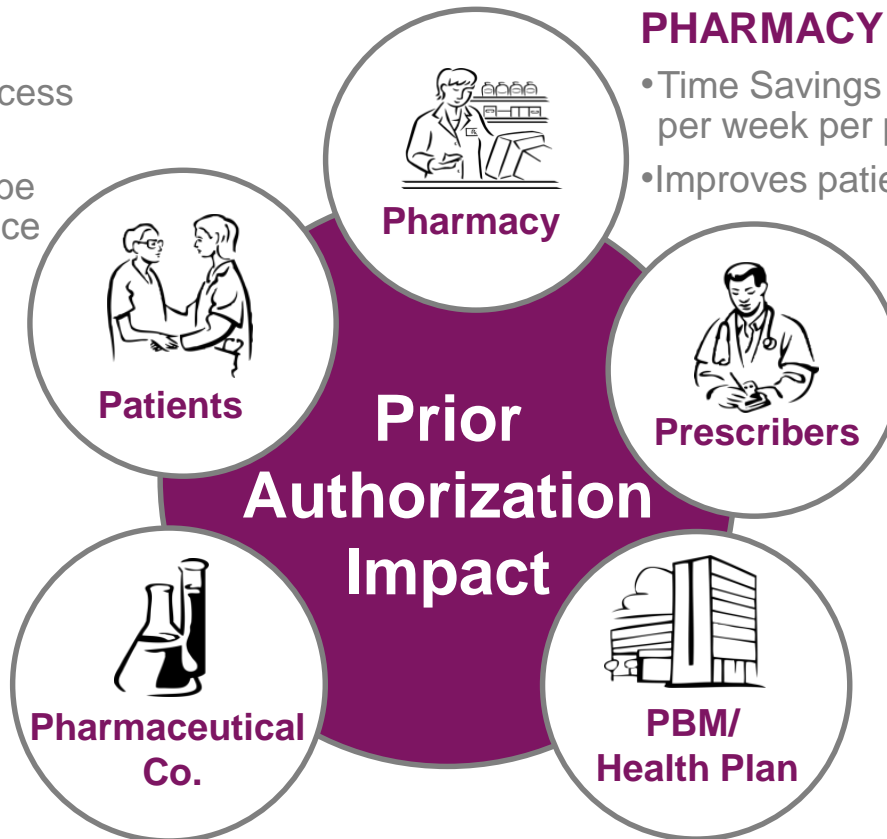
# ePA Represents a Win-Win for all Stakeholders

## PATIENT BENEFITS

- Improves medication access by days to weeks
- Drugs requiring PA can be approved at doctor's office
- Reduces prescription abandonment

## PHARMA BENEFITS

- Increases medication adherence
- Eliminates physician calls
- Improves patient access to programs and quality of formulary data



## PHARMACY BENEFITS

- Time Savings – manual PA takes 5 hours per week per pharmacist<sup>1</sup>
- Improves patient access to medications

## PRESCRIBER BENEFITS

- Significant time savings: 20-60 minutes per PA<sup>2</sup>
- Seamless workflow integration with EHR/immediate notification of drugs requiring PA before ePrescribing
- Reduced prescription abandonment; improved medication adherence

## PBM/HEALTH PLAN BENEFITS

- Eliminates manual PA processing costs estimated at \$20-\$25 per submission<sup>3</sup>
- Improves provider and patient relations
- Reduced prescription abandonment; improved medication adherence

1. 2015 ePA National Adoption Scorecard  
2. Medical Economics: **The Prior Authorization Predicament**, July 8, 2014  
3. American Journal of Managed Care, *A Physician-Friendly Alternative to Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs*, Published Online, Dec. 2009

# Case Study: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan



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# Industry Trends in Prior Authorization

- **Electronic prescribing (NCPCP format)**
  - Decades long ramp up
  - Many years of physician incentives at BCBSM
  - Necessary pre-cursor to ePA
- **Same trajectory with electronic prescribing of controlled substances**
  - Difficult and confusing regulatory response
  - Very slow adoption
  - New incentive program for adoption at BCBSM



# Industry Trends in Prior Authorization

- Expansion of health plan involvement in medical drug spend
- Need for PA on professional and facility claims on medical drugs
- Development of health plan portals to support medical drug PA's

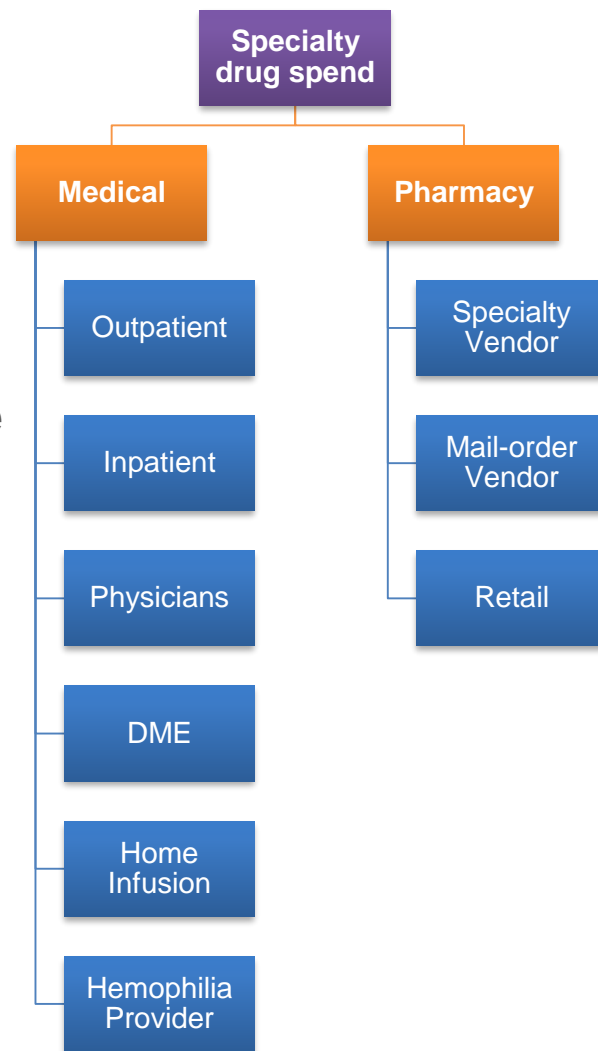
# BCBSM Response to Medical Spend

- **Wanted to leverage available technology for medical drug management program**
- **Decided on a process to:**
  - Develop necessary requirements for program
  - Request for proposal for vender
  - Oversee the complex implementation
- **Review and update on implementation of medical specialty drug program**

# Strategy requires new abilities to manage medical specialty drug distribution channels

## New cross-functional distribution channel management abilities:

- Benefit design
- Claim editing
- Expansion of vendor management
- Reimbursement enhancements to take advantage of the most cost effective care setting
- Physician Group Incentive Program
- Utilization Management (UM) programs:
  - Prior authorization
  - Off-label review
  - Pipeline monitoring
- Provider services
  - Electronic prescribing
  - Medication adherence



# Medical Specialty Drug UM Program Development



- **Stages from analysis to implementation**
  - 2-3 year effort
- **Multi-departmental effort**
- **Leadership approval and buy in**
- **Focus resources**
- **Process development**
- **Training and communication is key**

# Analysis:

- **Deep dive into the medical data to identify opportunities for improvement**
- **Evaluation of the specialty pipeline**
- **Brainstorming answers to the following:**
  - How can we effectively manage
  - What are other plans doing to control utilization/cost
  - Do we need assistance of a consultant
  - How can we leverage technology to facilitate clinical reviews

# Pre-RFP:

- **Presentations of different companies management software/program/vendor demo's**
  - Identify industry best practices
  - Assimilate information to be incorporated into the RFP
  - Describe the “must have” capabilities including web-based prior authorization capabilities
- **Interdepartmental team meetings**
- **Implementation of Specialty Drug Workgroup to manage the clinical criteria development**
- **Continued communications with Executive Leadership**

# Strategy Development:

- **Identify components of the ideal medical specialty utilization management program including administration locations to consider**
  - Office infusion
  - Home infusion
  - Outpatient facility
- **Internal partner discussions to identify potential challenges and barriers**
- **Estimation of IT requirements to support electronic prior authorization web portal**
- **Development of timeline of program component implementation**
- **Initial budget estimations**

# RFP Time Period:

- **Procurement process**
  - Review/selection
  - Contracting
- **Clinical process**
  - Developing clinical criteria and branch tree logic
  - P & T approvals
- **Operational process**
  - Secure funding for project
  - Staffing review
  - Review and update of provider contract/certificate
  - Socializing strategy internally



# Project Implementation:

- Initial time frame 120 days from signing of contract for web-base tool to be up and running for internal staff
- Rolled out web-base tool to providers in waves over 6 months based on types of specialty drugs
- Ongoing development of clinical criteria and branch tree logic for future additions

# Vendor Selection

- **Non-negotiable vendor requirements:**
  - Vendor capability for 11- digit NDC pricing
  - Web-based prior authorization capability for providers utilizing branch-tree logic
- **Case meets criteria based on programmed clinical logic**
  - Approval is automatically entered into the claim system
  - Provider obtains instant feedback

# Provider Response to Technology

- Few providers obtained the web login access to the prior authorization system
- Physicians who utilize the web-based prior auth process have provided feedback that it is efficient and appreciated
- Provider consulting teams have identified that despite training, many providers are reluctant to utilize another tool in their workflow

# Lessons Learned

- Adoption of electronic prior authorization may be slower than anticipated
- Continued communication with providers is essential for a successful utilization management program
- Internal resources need to be aligned to make sure all aspects of medical claims systems are working synergistically

# Implementing ePA in Prescriber Workflow



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# A Look at the ePA Road So Far

- 1996** HIPAA Passes, names 278 as standard for ePA
- 2003** MMA Passes
- 2004** Multi-SDO Task Group Formed
- 2005** NCVHS Hearings
- 2006** MMA ePrescribing Pilots involving ePA
- 2007** Report to Congress recommending a new standard
- 2008** Expert Panel Formed/Roadmap Created
- 2009** Minnesota Law Passes  
New ePA Standard Created using SCRIPT
- 2011** CVS Caremark Pilot
- 2013** New Standard Published
- 2015** Implementation of SCRIPT-based Standard

1. Point-of-Care Partners' internal data; ePrescribing State Law Review  
2. NCPDP website



# Electronic Prior Authorization

The Infrastructure is in place



**80%**

Physicians Today

**Greater than 80%**  
of physicians  
ePrescribe today



**700**

EHRs Enabled

More than **700**  
EHRs enabled for  
ePrescribing



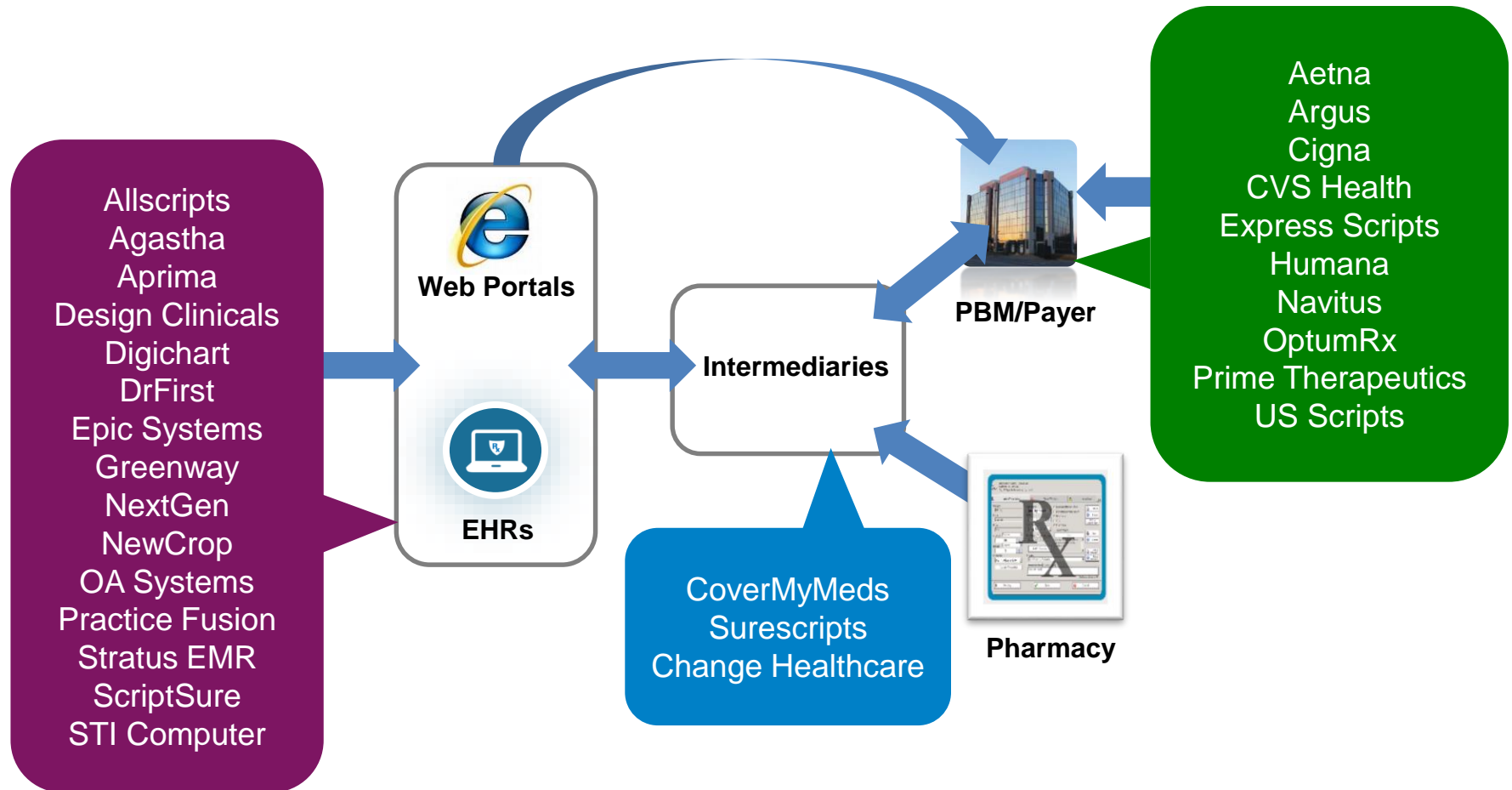
**100%**

Retail Pharmacies

Nearly **100%**  
retail pharmacies

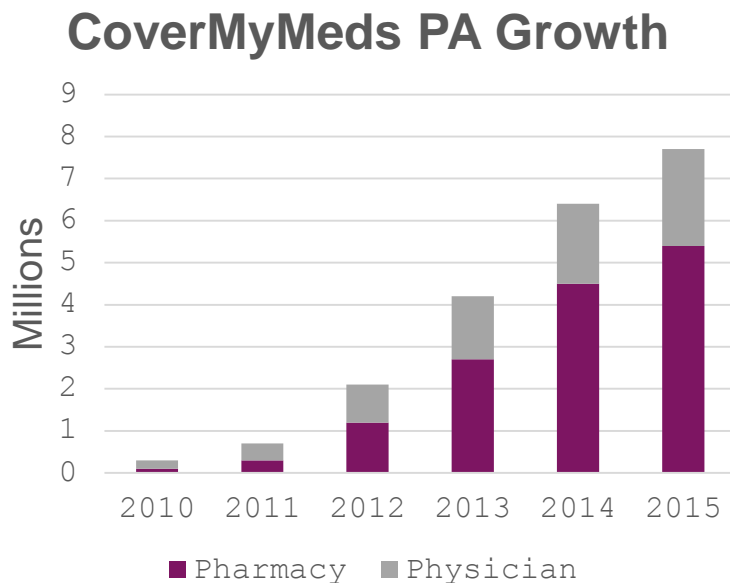
1. Surescripts
2. Point-of-Care Partners' internal data

# Current Landscape





# Electronic Prior Authorization

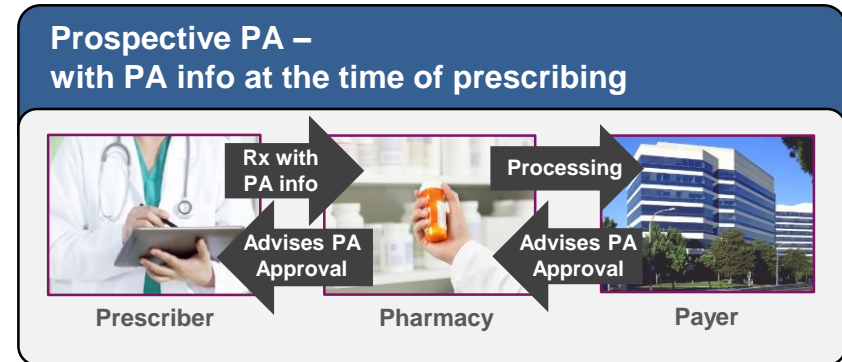
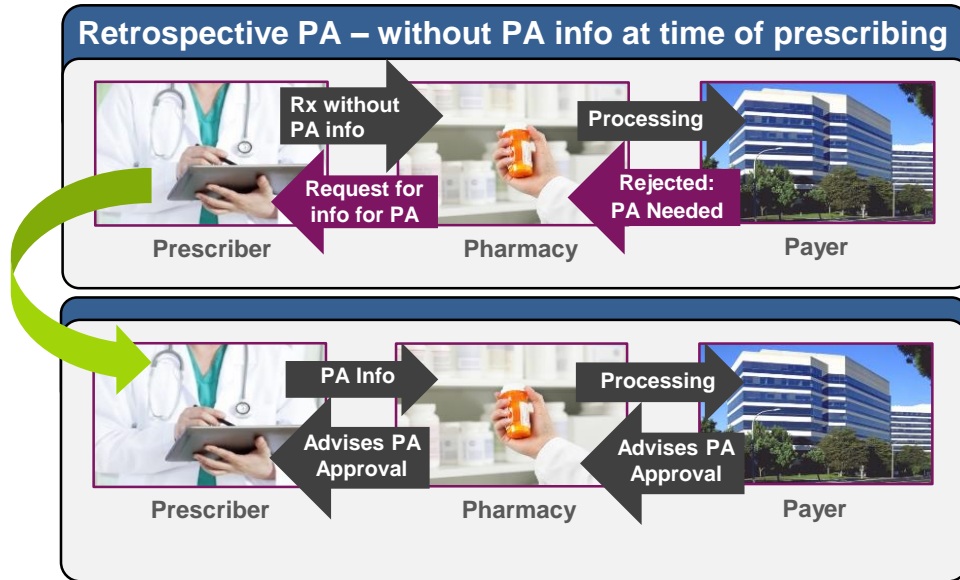


Source: CoverMyMeds

- **Retrospective** and prospective models emerging in the marketplace
- Retrospective being conducted in a proprietary manner
- Industry movement toward **prospective**
- Prospective ePA officially approved as part of the SCRIPT standard in July, 2013
- Standardized retrospective process on-hold
- Standardized questions being addressed
- Need for standardization, evidence-based PA criteria

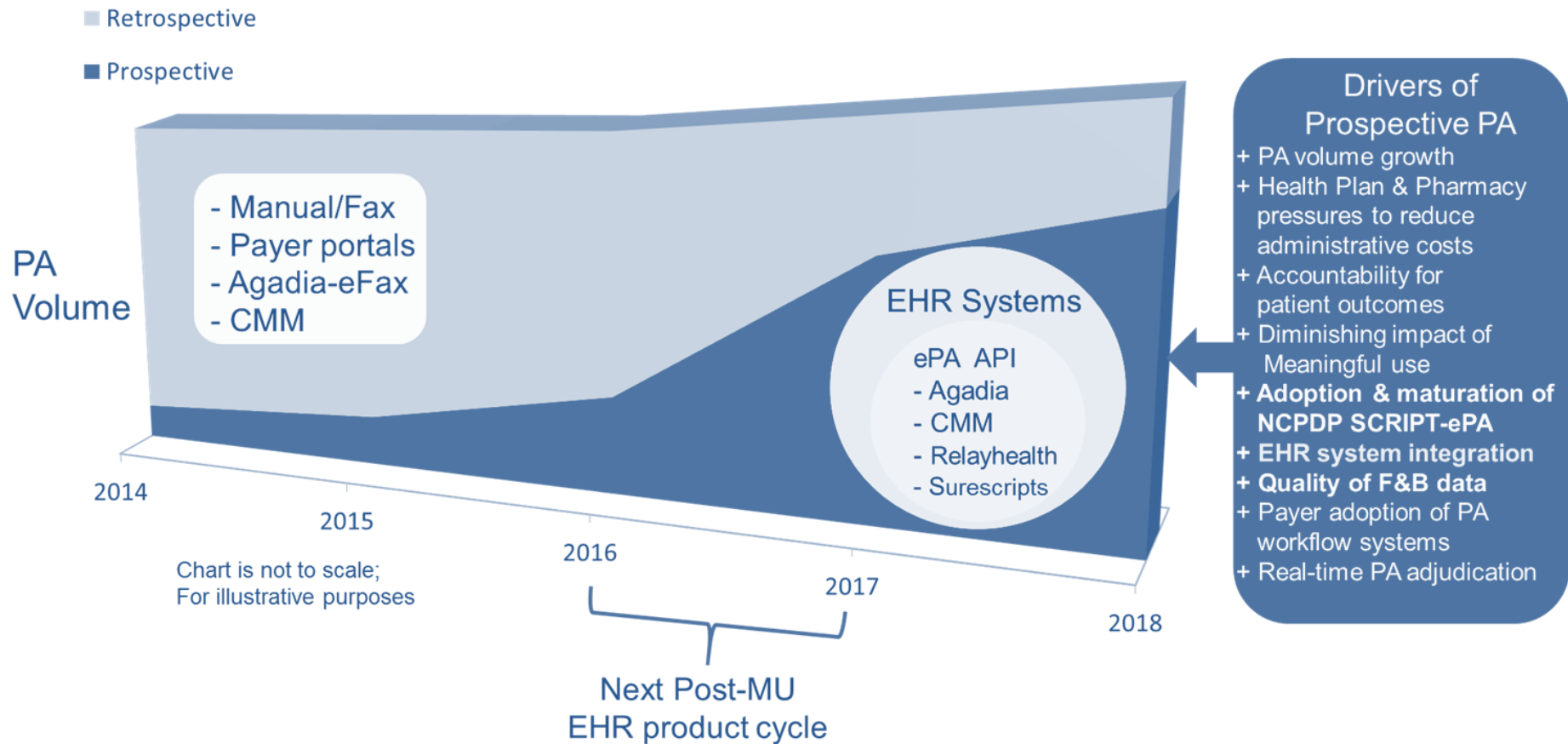
# New Standard Enables Multiple Workflows

## Retrospective vs. Prospective



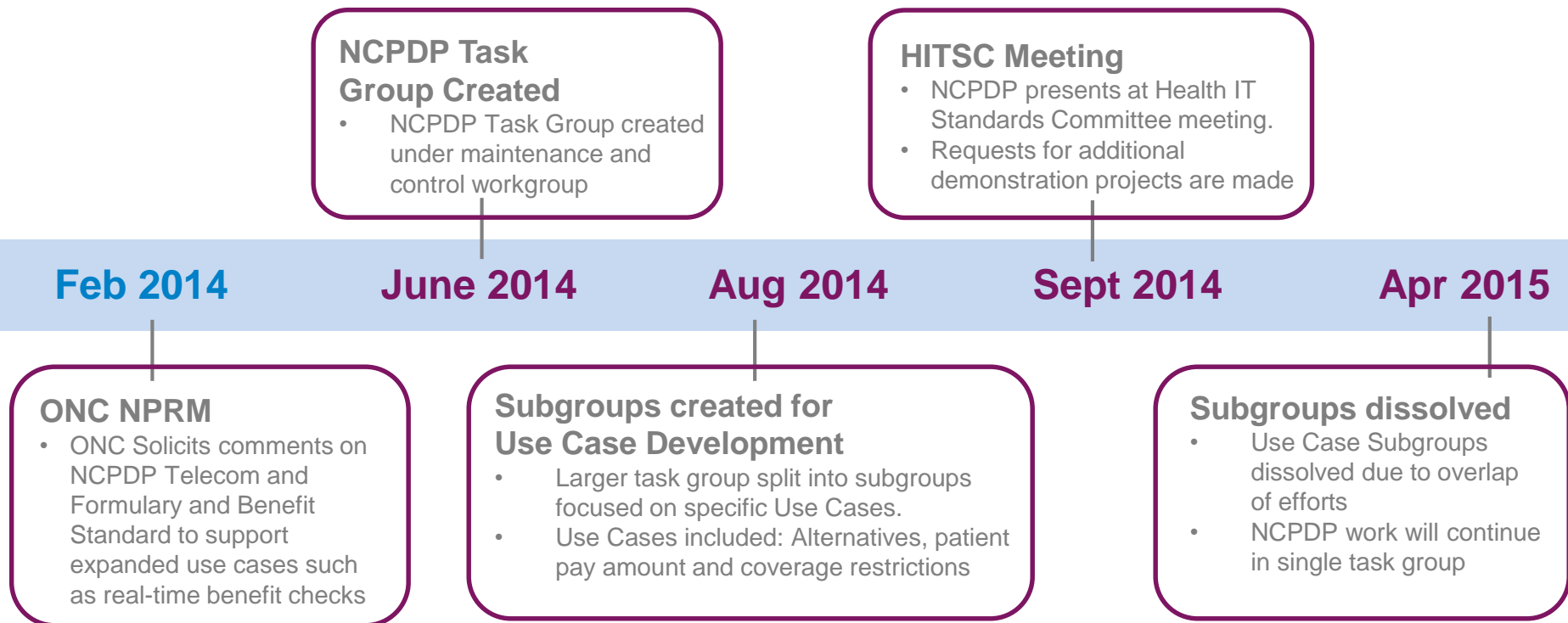
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# Transition from Retrospective to Prospective Prior Auth



# Real-Time Benefit Inquiry Milestones

The ONC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) released in Feb 2014 was the catalyst for NCPDP efforts around RTBI. In subsequent meetings, a request for demonstration projects was made by ONC leading to additional industry efforts.



1. [NCPDP Real-time Benefit Check Briefing](#)
2. NCPDP website

# Real-Time Benefit Inquiry Today and Pilots



**One Target, but currently many paths...**

- **NCPDP workgroup efforts**
  - Use Case Development
- **Industry Stakeholder Pilots**
  - Modification of D.0 Telecommunications standard
  - Modification of SCRIPT standard
  - Proprietary connection
- **ONC and CMS requests for pilots**

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# Post-Test



# Learning Assessment Question #1

How can web-based utilization management (UM) solutions improve the prior authorization process?

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**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 30773
- b. 35736
- c. 37160
- d. 37950



# Learning Assessment Question #1

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**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 30532
- b. 31150
- c. 31290
- d. 31291

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**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 30774
- b. 37951
- c. 45707
- d. 50195

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Which of the following are considered best practices for automating prior authorization of medications?

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- b. Transition from retrospective to prospective ePA
- c. Monitor ePA legislative mandates
- d. All of the above

**TEXT TO  
22333**

- a. 32664
- b. 50198
- c. 50201
- d. 51208

# Learning Assessment Question #4

Which of the following are considered best practices for automating prior authorization of medications?

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# QUESTIONS?



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