



**Suburban
Hospital Alliance**
of New York State, LLC

SUPPORT MEMO

Date: May 6, 2022
To: Members, Hudson Valley and Long Island Senate Delegations
From: Wendy Darwell, President and CEO
S.6920 – on Senate Health Committee agenda (5/9/22)

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, which represents hospitals and health systems in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island, supports S.6920, which would deem care to be approved if a health plan fails to make a determination within the timeframes prescribed by law.

Current statute enumerates the timeframes within which insurers engaged in prior authorization of health services must complete their reviews and issue determinations. We support shortening the amount of time for these reviews, as proposed on S.6435-B/A.7129-A, to ensure that patients are able to receive timely and necessary care and discharges to appropriate care settings are not delayed.

However, in the absence of this change in statute, we support the alternative approach of S.6920. Simply stated, it would ensure better enforcement of the statutory timeframes for insurers to issue determinations. If insurers fail to timely issue a determination, upon receipt of the clinical documentation requested from the provider, the care should be deemed to be approved. Patients should not be forced to wait for medically necessary care because a health plan failed to respond in a timely manner to a clinician's request.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State urges your support for S.6920.