



Utilization Management Impacts on People with Cancer

Prior authorizations

85% faced prior authorization for treatments during cancer

76% in the last year alone, often multiple times

Delays and inefficiencies

95% of authorizations were eventually approved, but only after:

29% experienced diagnostic delays

40% faced treatment delays

Time lost by those navigating authorization

51% lost up to a full business day

27% lost up to 2-3 business days

12% lost a full business week or more dealing with a single authorization

14% experienced abrupt coverage stoppages in the past year

64% of those experienced treatment interruption

Among those who switched treatment due to coverage stoppage:

45% reported worse side effects, 38% said the new treatment cost more

Red tape and insurance

Coverage stoppage

Employer Plan enrollees faced the most red tape, followed by Medicare Advantage, then Traditional Medicare

Awareness and confidence

77% didn't know what pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) do

1 in 4 lacked confidence in understanding their coverage and costs

Worsened well-being due to insurance problems

36% reported worsened stress

34% reported worsened finances

29% reported reduced trust in the healthcare system

Risky trade-offs

About 1in5 rationed or skipped medications because of cost burdens

Data from a national survey of 1,201 insured adults treated for cancer in the past year (Employer Plans, Medicare Advantage, or Traditional Medicare). Learn more from Cancer Care, The Health Insurance Maze: How Cancer Patients Get Lost in the Red Tape of Utilization Management (June 2025), www.cancercare.org/redtape.