



May 30, 2023

Rhonda Randall, D.O.
Chief Medical Officer / Executive Vice President
UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual
9900 Bren Road East
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Dear Dr. Randall,

We appreciate the outreach to ACG, AGA and ASGE to discuss proposed changes to your scheduled prior authorization program for gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures. While we share the goal of appropriate use of endoscopy services to ensure patients receive timely, high-quality care, we are unable to support either United Healthcare's (UHC) proposed GI prior authorization program or the "Advance Notification Program Details" document that you shared on May 26, 2023. We believe there is significant room for more meaningful opportunities to collaborate between UHC and the GI societies. We reiterate our request that UHC share its data with the GI societies to better assess which specific procedures are of concern.

The GI societies were asked to support the Advance Notification Program as a condition to any announcement on delaying the June 1 prior authorization program. The Advance Notification Program outline that was shared lacks necessary details that are critical for our review. Further, we are concerned that, as presented by UHC the program, it will impose the same significant administrative burden on our physician practices as the impending prior authorization program.

For weeks prior to the May 26 discussion, our societies made multiple requests for UHC-specific data that demonstrate inappropriate use and geographic variation of endoscopy services. If UHC does indeed have specific data within its own system that demonstrate overuse/variation and that support the rationale for UHC's proposed prior authorization requirements for endoscopy services covering 61 codes, we again ask that these data be deidentified and shared with our societies on a code-by-code basis.

Finally, we respectfully reiterate our request that UHC halt any proposed changes by June 1 and work in good faith with the GI societies for the best interest of our patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel J. Pambianco, MD, in black ink.

Daniel J. Pambianco, MD, FACG
President, American College of Gastroenterology

Handwritten signature of Barbara H. Jung, MD, in black ink.

Barbara H. Jung, MD, AGAF
President, American Gastroenterological Association

Handwritten signature of Jennifer A. Christie, MD, in black ink.

Jennifer A. Christie, MD, FASGE
President, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy