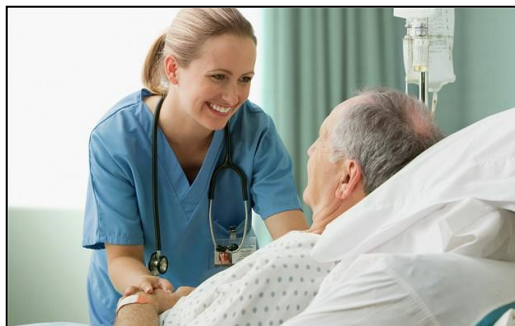


Real stories in health care

A Prior Authorization Safety Check Saves a Life

An oncologist prescribed an oral medication, Xtandi, for one of his patients diagnosed with prostate cancer. This patient had undergone heart and kidney transplants in the past.

During the prior authorization review, the medical professionals at the patient's health plan found a significant drug interaction between Xtandi and the patient's anti-rejection transplant medications.



The drug manufacturer's informational materials say it does not recommend use of Xtandi with transplant medications.

The medical review professionals at the health plan called the treating physician to warn him of the interaction.

The physician immediately prescribed another medication that did not pose the risk of a drug interaction.

Without a prior authorization process in place, this interaction could have resulted in an acute organ rejection episode, a catastrophic event.

How could this happen?

Xtandi is a "limited distribution medication," distributed by pharmacies that dispense only specialty medications.

Specialty "limited distribution" pharmacies are common. They distribute more than 80 percent of new specialty and oncology drugs.



These specialty pharmacies do not have claims histories of patients, which would include anti-rejection medications.

Without a claims history, a specialty pharmacy would have missed the drug interaction. Here, the prior authorization safety check kept the patient harm-free.

Prior authorization safety checks save lives.

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