

DOCTOR, WHY DO YOU NEED MSSNY?

Whether you're in independent practice or you work for a large group or institution, your future depends on a strong state medical society.

- MSSNY consistently quashes or modifies legislative proposals that would adversely impact your ability to deliver care to your patients.
- MSSNY consistently fights to assure that you, a trained physician – not insurance companies or government – determine the appropriate course of care for your patients' conditions and circumstances.
- MSSNY helps you negotiate employment contracts that don't leave you out on a limb after the initial honeymoon period ends.
- MSSNY provides information, education and insights to help you plan for the future and advance your career.

During this Corona virus crisis, among many other activities

- We worked with the New York Congressional Delegation, AMA and federation of medicine to establish and assist physicians in navigating various stimulus programs that have provided a lifeline to physician practices.
- Our advocacy resulted in actions by the NY DFS and DOH to greatly expand coverage for telehealth via video and audio-only, and in enactment of liability protections for the period of the Covid-19 emergency that have been a model for the nation.
- We have urged the commercial health industry in New York to establish advance payment programs that have been initiated by United, CDPHP, and Empire.
- We have been in daily contact with the Governor's office and NYSDOH re PPE availability, Covid vaccine (once it is available), ensuring physicians have key information, and restoring the ability to perform elective surgery.

In the last few legislative sessions, we have faced an onslaught of proposals which would have adversely impacted the practice of medicine, and we achieved real and substantial victories:

- **Reduced administrative hassles** by enacting legislation:

- to eliminate the requirement to report to the State when circumstances require a prescription to be written instead of being e-prescribed
- to reduce credentialing delays and enable override of insurer step therapy protocols
- to reduce the need to obtain **prior authorization** when connected to services for which one was already granted
- to reduce the time for claims to be paid
- to require insurers to provide comprehensive data to demonstrate their compliance with mental health and substance abuse parity laws
- Working together with affected specialty societies, our advocacy resulted in
 - the defeat of proposals that would have significantly curtailed **due process protections** for all physicians against whom a complaint is filed with OPMC
 - the defeat of proposals that would have imposed huge new costs on physicians who receive coverage through the Excess Medical Liability Insurance Program
- Our advocacy resulted in important **public health achievements**, including
 - assuring that medical contraindications are the only valid exception to required immunizations
 - raising the legal tobacco purchase age to 21
 - preventing the sale of flavored vaping products
- Our advocacy resulted in the defeat of proposals
 - that would have imposed significant new requirements on physicians prior to prescribing any opioid medication and other practice mandates
 - that would have expanded the **scope of practice** of numerous non-physician practitioners
 - that could have raised your liability costs through changing loss allocation rules in malpractice cases involving multiple defendants
 - that would have limited injured worker choice of physician in the Workers Compensation program

A short review of some additional recent important victories MSSNY has won for you:

- Giving physicians additional protections against health plan retaliation for filing a complaint with a state agency
- Passage of legislation to assure the availability and transparency of comprehensive **out of network coverage** for our patients and preservation of usual and customary, a victory important for all physicians, not just those who stay out of network, because it preserves some ability for you to walk away when an insurer is offering an undesirable contract. Without a viable option to be out of network, all physicians are negatively impacted
- Re-instated “prescriber prevails” protections for several categories of prescription medications in the Medicaid managed care program

- Removed the requirement for physicians to execute a separate written patient consent when offering a patient an HIV test.
- Defeated measures that would have imposed **direct or indirect taxes** on office-based physician services.

Who could have achieved these outcomes without MSSNY?

Who will support MSSNY's efforts, if you don't?

Are you a MSSNY member?

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