



CAPITAL UPDATE

News of legislative, regulatory, and other matters of interest to New York's physicians

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MSSNY President - Legislature Must Reject Budget Proposals that Will Harm Patient Access to Needed Care!!

MSSNY President Dr. David Jakubowicz delivered [testimony](#) this week to a joint Senate-Assembly hearing panel examining the Healthcare and Medicaid proposals in the 2026-27 Executive Budget. While his testimony highlighted some positive initiatives such as prior authorization reform and continuing fair telehealth payment, he also warned the State Legislature about the patient access to care consequences arising from the potential huge new cost imposition and steep drops in insurer payment that would be caused by various unfair Budget proposals singling out our state's dedicated physicians. These include:

- **Reject Excess Cuts.** Urge your legislation to OPPOSE ([Reject Physician Cost-Share](#)) the proposed new \$40 million in costs to the 16,000 physicians who receive Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance coverage by requiring them to pay 50% of the coverage cost. This will hit many of these physicians with thousands of dollars in additional new costs when they can least absorb it.
- **Don't Let Insurers Put Their Thumb on the Scale in IDR.** Urge your legislators to OPPOSE ([Protect Fair IDR Process](#)) a proposal that threatens available on-call specialty care availability in Emergency Departments across New York State by upending New York's innovative IDR payment resolution process for non-participating provider claims, altering the criteria to make it one-sided towards health insurer interests and eliminate ability to appeal out of network Medicaid Managed Care disputes to IDR. Essentially, this would enable the health insurer to "put its thumb on the scale" in what is supposed an INDEPENDENT dispute resolution process.
- **Preserve Physician-Led Team Care.** Urge your legislators to OPPOSE ([Preserve Physician-led Care](#)) permitting many PAs to practice without any defined physician supervision after 8,000 hours practice, despite a law enacted last year giving PAs significantly more care responsibilities.
- **Preserve County Medical Society Peer Review.** Urge your legislators to OPPOSE ([Workers Compensation](#)) eliminating the historical vetting role of the county medical society in recommending physicians to participate in the Workers' Compensation program. The problem with Workers Compensation is not the application process, but its low payments

relative to the enormous hassles of claim submissions and non-payment months and years after providing complex care to injured workers.

There are some positive Provisions in the Executive Budget, including:

- A series of prior authorization reforms, including prohibiting health plans from requiring Prior Authorization for the treatment of chronic conditions more than once per year, and requiring greater transparency of Prior Auth denials.
- Permitting Medical Assistants to administer immunizations.
- Extending telehealth health insurance payment parity for 2 more years.
- Linking immunization coverage standards to those recommended by AAP, AAFP, ACP or ACOG.
- Reducing Interest rates on court judgments from 9% to a market rate, helping to lower medical liability insurance premiums.
- Increased investment in the Early Intervention program.
- Funding the Committee for Physicians Health (CPH) at its historical level of \$990,000.
- Funding the Doctors Across New York medical student loan relief program at its historical level of \$15.86M.

(DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS)

Join Us for the Medical Society of the State of New York's Physician Advocacy Day on March 10, 2026

With State Budget negotiations underway in Albany, now is the time for physicians to speak up for their patients. The release of the Executive Budget brings with it several problematic proposals that threaten to make it harder for physicians to deliver timely, high-quality care to patients.

Please put aside Tuesday, March 10 to let your legislators know of your concerns by participating in Physician Advocacy Day. You can register here: [Registration](#)

This year's event will take place in-person in Meeting Room 6 in the Empire State Plaza, Albany, from 7:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. During the morning session, physicians, residents, and medical students will hear from, and have the ability to ask questions to, the NYS Commissioner of Health, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the Assembly and Senate Health and Insurance Committee Chairs.

In the afternoon, participants will meet with their legislators in meetings organized by county medical societies.

The Medical Society of the State of New York will be actively advocating a range of critical issues that directly impact patient care and the practice of medicine. Key priorities include advancing Prior Authorization Reform to reduce administrative delays and ensure timely access to care; preserving the role of county medical societies in the Workers' Compensation application process; protecting physicians' right to a fair and independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process; opposing proposals that would shift excess medical malpractice insurance costs onto physicians; and preserving physician-led, team-based healthcare to ensure patients receive high-quality, coordinated care guided by medical expertise.

In February & March, MSSNY Has CME, CME, & More CME!

Did you know that MSSNY has numerous new outstanding CME webinars coming up? Be sure to register NOW for the upcoming *Women Physicians Leadership Academy* (WPLA) sessions and the REQUIRED *Pain Management, Palliative Care & Addiction* courses.

Dates, times and registration information for each of these courses are below.

Medical Matters: *Virtual Drill 2026: Diagnosing, Reporting & Employing the Incident Command System*

When: February 18th 7:30-9:00a.m.

Faculty: Arthur Cooper, MD, MS, Lorraine Giordano, MD, & William Valenti, MD,

Educational Objectives:

- Outline information about local, state and national chain of command in a public health emergency and learn how to access resources.
- Analyze a scenario in which the incident command system plays a critical role.
- Recognize the importance of planning and preparation for the next public health emergency.
- Distinguish best practices for diagnosing, reporting and messaging.

Click [here](#) to register.

Funding provided by the New York State Department of Health

The Medical Society of the State of New York is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Medical Society of the State of New York designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CME Series on Pain Management, Palliative Care & Addiction as Required by New York State Statute

February 25th and, March 11th @ 7:30a.m.

These live webinars are being offered **FREE OF CHARGE ONLY to MSSNY members**. Once they have been recorded, they will be offered at the MSSNY CME website for \$50.00 per course for non-members.

The Medical Society of the State of New York announces an updated series of three one-hour CME webinars on Pain Management, Palliative Care, & Addiction. The first course took place on February 11th and will be available on the MSSNY CME website soon.

Since 2017, New York State statute requires all prescribers holding a DEA license to complete **THREE** hours of coursework every three years.

The Medical Society of the State of New York has worked with the New York State Office of Addictions Services and Supports (OASAS) in the development of this program series, ensuring that it covers all eight of the required topics.

Following the webinars, the courses will be offered on-line at the MSSNY CME website, <https://cme.mssny.org>, remaining free to MSSNY members. For all non-MSSNY members, there will be a \$50.00 charge per course for.

Please click on titles to enroll in each webinar:

Wednesday February 25, 2026 @ 7:30-8:30a.m.

[When to Consider Opioid Therapy for Chronic Non-Cancer & Palliative Care](#)

Faculty: Charles Argoff, MD

Educational Objectives:

- Discuss evidence based best practice recommendations for opioid therapy for chronic pain, patient risk assessments and documentation.
- Describe palliative medical care and end-of-life care.

Wednesday March 11 @ 7:30-8:30a.m.

[Patients with Opioid Use Disorders: Identification, Treatment, and Management of Co-occurring Pain](#)

Faculty: Pamela Mund, MD, Chief of Addiction Medicine, State Opioid Treatment Authority (OASAS) & Jeffrey Selzer, MD

Educational Objectives:

- Describe the Potential for Addiction, Patient Screening, Diagnosis and Subsequent Treatment or Referral
- Recommend Tools to Assist in the Identification of High-Risk Patients for Whom Opioids are Indicated and Prescribed
- Describe Strategies for Treating Pain in Patients with Substance Use Disorders

These three webinars include the state required elements: New York State and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances; Pain management; Appropriate prescribing; Managing acute pain; Palliative medicine; Prevention, screening and signs of addiction; Responses to abuse and addiction; and End of life care.

Following successful completion of the three hour of coursework, prescribers must attest to the NYS Department of Health that they have taken the course:

https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/mandatory_prescriber_education/docs/neat_instructions_prescriber.pdf

Additional information or assistance with registration may be obtained by contacting Melissa Hoffman at mhoffman@mssny.org or 518-465-8085.

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Winter 2026 Women Physicians Leadership Academy

There are two more Winter 2026 WPLA sessions coming in March: *Enhancing Physician Wellness & Wellbeing* and *The Importance of Networking*.

The Winter 2026 WPLA schedule is below with registration links:

Sunday March 1st @ 9:45AM-1:15PM

- [Enhancing Physician Wellness & Wellbeing](#)

Saturday March 7th @ 9:45AM-1:15PM

- [The Importance of Networking](#)

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(HOFFMAN)