

Telemedicine Prescribing

Following strong advocacy by MSNJ, the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs clarified that new in-person exam requirements for prescribing Schedule II controlled substances via telemedicine do not apply to certain exempt patients, including those undergoing cancer treatment, receiving hospice or palliative care, living in long-term care facilities, or receiving treatment for substance use disorder. MSNJ will continue advocating for broader reforms to New Jersey's 90-day in-person visit requirement for Schedule II prescriptions.

Step Therapy Reform

A BIG WIN AGAINST THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY! In May 2025, Governor Murphy signed our step therapy reform bill. This new law puts patients first, ensuring that physicians, not insurance companies, make the final call on the best course of treatment. The law: protects clinical decision-making and ensures a prompt exceptions process, limits harmful insurer "fail first" protocols, and applies to Medicaid, SHBP & SEHBP plans, while leaving step therapy prohibitions in place for commercial market plans.

Telemedicine Pay Parity

Due to MSNJ's advocacy, in December 2024, Governor Murphy signed our top-priority bill, extending telemedicine pay parity until July 1, 2026. Continued pay parity ensures equitable access to care, protects underserved patients, and supports continuity of care for chronic conditions and mental health. MSNJ is already gearing up to fight for a permanent extension.

Prior Authorization Reform

MSNJ's top-priority bill became law, making big improvements to the existing statute on prior authorization. Under the new law, medication requests must be decided in as little as 24 hours depending on circumstances. Diagnostics and procedures must now be decided in 72 hours at most if urgent. Missed deadlines mean automatically approved requests, and prior authorizations for chronic conditions or multiple treatments will stay valid for at least six months. Appeals must be decided by a physician – and a true peer-to-peer is now your right on appeal.

Debt Collection

The new Medical Debt Relief Act now protects patients from many burdens of medical debt. Because of sustained advocacy by MSNJ, the bill also includes critical protections for physicians.

Promoting Team-Based Care

Each year, some non-physicians seek scope expansions despite not having the education and training that keep patients safe. This year, MSNJ stopped three bills: one that dangerously allows optometrists to perform laser surgery, one permitting independent practice by midwives, and one allowing APNs to treat patients without any link to a physician.

Horizon Allergy Testing

After MSNJ advocacy, Horizon reversed its improper denial of payments for pulmonary function testing billed alongside office visits and made full repayments to all affected practices statewide.

Developing Legislative Relationships

MSNJ member, decades-long friend of medicine, and longtime NJ Assembly Health Committee Chair, Herb Conaway, Jr., MD, was elected with our strong support to the US House of Representatives. We look forward to advancing federal healthcare policy with his leadership.