

# LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

## SAFE HAVEN



Since late 2025, MSNJ has worked with the Boards of Medical Examiners and Nursing to remove intrusive mental health questions from license applications. This will remove barriers to clinicians getting needed mental health treatment. Though we expect the Board to make changes voluntarily soon, we will also work to codify this change in law.

1

2

## DOWNCODING

Insurers now use automated downcoding to slash legitimate physician payments, shifting costs onto practices and undermining patient care. MSNJ will introduce legislation that will stop these tactics by banning automated downcoding and requiring that code changes be clinically justified.



## CORPORATE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

3

Growing corporate influence in physician practices can undermine independent medical judgment and patient-centered care. MSNJ will introduce a bill that provides reasonable safeguards by increasing transparency, requiring Attorney General review of ownership changes, and ensuring physicians can practice without inappropriate corporate interference.



## TELEMEDICINE PAY PARITY

Due to MSNJ's advocacy, in December 2024, Governor Murphy signed a bill extending telemedicine pay parity until July 1, 2026. Continued parity protects underserved patients and supports continuity of care. MSNJ will now fight for a permanent extension.



## MEDICAID PAY PARITY

For years, Medicaid rates have trailed Medicare's, which themselves trail commercial rates. Often, practices lose money each time they treat a Medicaid-covered patient.



We are fighting to raise Medicaid rates to parity with Medicare, which will improve access for the state's most vulnerable residents.

5

4

## PROMOTING TEAM-BASED CARE

Advanced practice nurses, optometrists, midwives and others are pursuing independent practice and scope expansions, despite lacking critical education and training. The medical system should move toward team-based care, not silos that increase patient risk. We support increased collaboration between physicians and other clinicians.

6

