

# MSDC

## What's Ahead for 2015: New District Leadership and Healthcare Legislation

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### WHAT MATTERS TO YOU IN 2015?

Take this [one-question survey](#) and let us know!

With the start of the new year, a few things have happened that might be of interest to you and impact your practice. Hon. Muriel E. Bowser was [sworn in as the District's new mayor](#) last week and a new Director of the Department of Health took office. This week, the DC Council held its first Legislative Meeting of the 21st Council Period. Following is a brief overview of local transitions, new healthcare legislation in the District, and a survey on what matters most to you in 2015.

#### **DC Department of Health Update**

Mayor Bowser appointed a new Director of the Department of Health, Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, to replace Dr. Joxel Garcia. Dr. Nesbitt is a board-certified family physician who most recently served as the [Director of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness](#) in Louisville, KY. Prior to her tenure in Louisville, Dr. Nesbitt [held several posts in the DC Department of Health](#). Despite this switch, other government healthcare leaders remains in place. [DC Board of Medicine Members](#) were reappointed late last year.



Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt  
Source: Ron Bath, Business First

#### **DC Council Legislative Update**

The District has [three new councilmembers](#) and will hold special elections in April to fill seats vacated by the new mayor and late Councilmember Marion Barry. The DC Council's first Legislative Meeting kicked off this week with the introduction of [five pieces of healthcare legislation](#). The bills cover issues as diverse as contraceptive prescription refills, medical marijuana testing and funding DC's Health Benefit Exchange and the Medical Society has not yet taken a position on the bills. The Medical Society is reviewing legislation designed to improve care coordination and [mental health patient privacy, an issue that the Medical Society pushed forward last year](#). As the two-year Council Period begins, the Medical Society will work closely with the DC Council, Office of the Mayor, and the DC Departments of Health, Behavioral Health and Insurance, Security and Banking, to ensure that the voice of medicine is heard.

#### **What Matters Most To You?**

The Medical Society exists to support its membership and wants to know which issues matter to you. Please answer this quick [one-question survey](#). Don't hesitate to contact us at 202-466-1800 or [shanbacker@msdc.org](mailto:shanbacker@msdc.org) with concerns critical to your practice.

For a recap of work done last year to support members on physician payment, licensure requirements, public health and other issues, please see MSDC's [2014 Annual Report](#).



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