

# MSDC

## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### *eNewsline*

May 22, 2015

Vol. 22, No. 10

#### **MSDC-led Coalition Calls on the DC Council to Stop Cost-shifting By Insurers**

A broad coalition, composed of health and community groups and led by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, is vigorously advocating on behalf of District patients who are having difficulty obtaining prescription medications due to excessive drug copays. The coalition is raising awareness of the problem through aggressive community and media outreach and it is calling on the DC Council to move forward on legislation that will limit the strain on patients.

#### **Now is a Critical Time - Contact the DC Council!**

The physician community is urged to take a few minutes to call on the DC Council to act. The [Specialty Drug Copayment Limitation Act of 2015](#) would help reduce the financial burden felt by District patients who need specialty drugs, but the bill, which was introduced in January, is currently stuck in Committee and a Public Hearing has yet to be scheduled. Physicians in the metropolitan Washington area are encouraged to press the DC Council to schedule a Public Hearing and learn how District patients suffer from excessive drug copays. Please heed the [call to action and contact key DC Councilmembers](#).

#### ***MSDC eNewsline***

##### **Editor**

Pia R. Duryea  
202-355-9414 (direct)  
[duryea@msdc.org](mailto:duryea@msdc.org)

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#### **Newest DC Councilmembers Sworn In**

Last week, two new Councilmembers were sworn in to bring the DC Council to full strength. LaRuby May and Brandon Todd were elected to fill the seats vacated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and the late Marion Barry, [as reported in the Washington Post](#). Both have clear ties to Mayor Muriel Bowser: Todd was a former aide to Bowser, and May worked on Bowser's mayoral campaign.

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#### **Patient Tracking and Follow Up- What You Don't Know Can Hurt You**

**By Laurette Salzman, MBA, CPHRM, ProAssurance Senior Risk**

## Resource Advisor

Lapses in patient care, including follow up, can lead to dire consequences beyond those to patient well-being. Substantial malpractice settlements and verdicts have been paid as a result of “lost” diagnostic reports and physicians’ failure to review and follow up.

Patients who miss or cancel appointments risk undetected and untreated medical conditions, threatening continuity of care. If the patient later experiences an illness or injury, he or she may hold you responsible. The best way to prevent such lapses—and the corresponding malpractice allegations they create—is to develop written policies and procedures. The goal is to effectively track lab and diagnostic tests, as well as missed appointments and referrals. [Read the full article.](#)



## May is the Month for High Blood Pressure Education and Asthma Awareness

### High Blood Pressure: What Patients Need to Know

May is [National High Blood Pressure Education Month](#). *AMA Wire* [offers information and resources](#) that can help physicians to engage with and educate patients on this important health issue.

### Raising Asthma Awareness in DC



Washington, DC, is among the 36 states that receive funding and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [National Asthma Control Program](#). The prevalence of adult asthma in Washington, DC is 11.9% of the population. The CDC has [asthma resources](#) available for health professionals and their patients.

## MedStar Washington Hospital Center Saves Critical Time Diagnosing Stroke Patients

According to a new study published in [Neurology](#), MedStar Washington Hospital Center has borrowed “lean” manufacturing processes to speed delivery of life-saving drugs to stroke patients. Two MedStar medical centers found that by analyzing and changing their work processes, they could reduce “door-to-needle” times from 93 to 55 minutes, a 40 percent difference and meet the benchmark of 60 minutes or less while using MRI for first-line brain imaging, according to the study’s physicians. [Read more.](#)

## MSDC and SunTrust Partner Together

For more than 100 years, SunTrust has been a leader in providing financial services to the medical community. We understand the complex financial needs of physicians and their practices. Our Private Wealth Management

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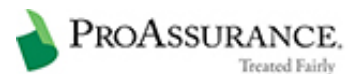
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## MSDC 1817 SOCIETY



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Medical Specialty Group improves on this record with specialized financial services to give you what you need, where you need it. Of particular interest today is Practice Strategic Alternatives. We are really looking forward to meeting and working with you through our partnership with MSDC.



Contact:

Frank Ruffing

Vice President - Client Advisor

SunTrust Bank, SunTrust Investment Services, Inc.

202.624.1278, frank.ruffing@suntrust.com

Kenneth Swain

Vice President - Medical Relationship Manager

SunTrust Bank, SunTrust Investment Services, Inc.

202.624.1227, kenneth.swain@suntrust.com

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## Increasing Your Bottom Line: How Much Does Rework Cost?

Over the next few months, Novitas will be publishing a series of "Increasing Your Bottom Line" articles geared specifically to help Medicare Part B providers to submit Medicare Part B claims accurately *the first time* so they can not only eliminate the rework within their organizations and save time and money for other opportunities, but also receive their Medicare payment faster. See the initial article, "[Increasing Your Bottom Line: How Much Does Rework Cost Your Organization](#)".

The next article in the series will cover the proper use of Modifier 59, which is used to identify procedures or services that are not normally reported together, but are appropriate under the circumstances. It is the most commonly reported modifier that affects Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) processing.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Board-Certified Pediatrician for Hire

A Maryland-licensed, Board-certified Pediatrician is open to new full-time opportunities within the Montgomery, Prince George, Howard and Anne Arundel county areas. The doctor has 15 years of general pediatric experience and is bilingual in Spanish and English.

For more information on this doctor, call 202-407-9936 or email [MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com](mailto:MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com).

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## EVENTS

### [Ready. Set. Code!](#) ICD-10 CM by Specialty

June 2, 2015\*: OBGYN/Pediatrics

June 4, 2015\*: Internal Medicine/Family Practice

June 9, 2015\*: General Surgery/Gastroenterology/ENT

June 11, 2015\*: Mental Health/Neurology/Neurosurgery



July 8, 2015\*: Cardiology/Vascular/Respiratory

1:00 -3:00 PM

Online webinar

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Hospital Association and the New Jersey Hospital Association Healthcare Business Solutions (NJHAHBS) have partnered to facilitate a comprehensive webinar series titled "Ready. Set. Code! ICD-10 CM by Specialty." The series is specialty-specific and is designed to prepare physicians and their practices for ICD10 compliance which is mandated by October 1, 2015. [Register online for a Ready. Set. Code! webinar.](#)

### 2015 Loss Prevention Seminars

\*Register Now - MSDC Members Save 50% on Registration!\*

June 9, 2015 (Washington, DC)

July 14, 2015 (Bethesda, MD)

September 15, 2015 (Washington, DC)

DC: American College of Cardiology (2400 N St., NW | Washington, DC 20037)

MD: Bethesda Marriott (5151 Pooks Hill Road | Bethesda, MD)

The practice of medicine has always been dynamic, but rarely has our U.S. healthcare system experienced the scale of change presented during the last two years. This seminar will expand your knowledge of liability concerns related to healthcare's changing landscape, including: Use of patient portals integrated with electronic record systems; Allied healthcare professionals' expanding role in medicine; Increased attention on diagnostic errors.

MSDC members receive a 50% discount and may earn up to 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. Register or read more in the [online brochure](#).



### The Real Risk of Rx Drugs

June 11-12, 2015

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Don't miss a novel Georgetown University Medical Center conference, [The Real Risks of Rx Drugs](#), on June 11-12, 2015.

Topics include the risks of opioids, anticoagulants, antipsychotics, sedative-hypnotics, and fluoroquinolones; deprescribing; industry influence on clinical guidelines; research integrity, and drug costs. Distinguished faculty include Carolyn Clancy MD, Louis Jacques MD, Lisa Cosgrove PhD, and many more. Registration includes meals, a reception, and up to 12 CME credits



### International Conference on Nutrition in Medicine

July 31 - August 1, 2015

Grand Hyatt Washington (1000 H St NW | Washington, DC 20001)

Recent breakthroughs have revealed that heart disease starts in childhood perhaps even in utero. Yet we have more powerful interventions than ever before. This conference will share the latest scientific information to help clinicians put these interventions to work. Speakers will explain their insights on the role of nutrition in heart disease, hypertension, stroke, children's health, and other topics. We will zero in especially on how clinicians can bring nutrition into their practices. [Learn more here.](#)

### MEDICAL REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Brought to you by MSDC Corporate Partner GZ Medical Realty. Contact [Pete Papantoniou](#) for your real estate needs

### Medical Office Space to Share at 2141 K Street NW

One physician's office with 12 exams rooms available soon. Share waiting room, front desk area,

kitchen, bathrooms, and more. Split the cost of rent, staff, and supplies with 2 well established internal medicine physicians. We each have our own PLLCs. Start August 1, when lease renews for one year, with potential for extensions. Contact 202-223-4174 or [DoctorsOffice4444@yahoo.com](mailto:DoctorsOffice4444@yahoo.com).

### **University Medical Building**

2141 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

University Medical Building is conveniently located in the heart of DC in the Central Business District. Pharmacy is located in the building. Please contact [Peter Papantoniou](mailto:Peter.Papantoniou@medsoc.org) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.



### **Alexandria Professional Center**

4660 Kenmore Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Alexandria Professional Center is a 119,000 SF medical office building with over 30 medical and dental practices that offers close proximity to INOVA Alexandria Hospital and I395. Contact [Peter Papantoniou](mailto:Peter.Papantoniou@medsoc.org) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.



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Medical Society of the District of Columbia | 1250 23rd Street NW, Suite #270 | Washington, DC 20037