

MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

eNewsline

October 16, 2015

Vol. 22, No. 17

Year-Round Advocacy By the Medical Society Leads to Progress for DC Physicians

Some people may believe that the Council of the District of Columbia follows a similar schedule as compared to the Maryland General Assembly, which meets for ninety days a year, or the Virginia General Assembly, which meets for a maximum of sixty days a year. To the contrary, the central and chief policy-making body for the District of Columbia stays in session all year, except for a summer recess, making advocacy in the District of Columbia an intensive year-round activity. The Medical Society's work of reviewing, developing and refining policy is done throughout the year, through continued discussions and advocacy with the Committees on Health and Human Services and on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

Since the new DC Council Period began at the start of 2015, the Medical Society has been actively engaged with DC Councilmembers, the Chairs of the Committees on Health and Human Services and on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, and key Council staff, to address a broad range of legislation impacting the practice of medicine in the District of Columbia. The Medical Society's discussions and interactions with the Council include, but are not limited to, the following accomplishments:

1. Progress on Limiting Insurer Cost Shifting for Prescription Medication. Through continued advocacy by an MSDC-led coalition and pressing of key committee members, a [Public Hearing on the "Specialty Drug Copayment Limitation Amendment Act of 2015"](#) has been scheduled for October 28, 2015. The bill would help reduce the financial burden felt by District patients who need specialty drugs and would give District patients protections similar to patients in neighboring jurisdictions. MSDC President-elect Carla C. Sandy, MD, will provide testimony on behalf of the Medical Society at the Public Hearing.

2. Improved Coordination of Care and Information Sharing. The passage of the "Behavioral Health Coordination of Care Act of 2015" enables the sharing of behavioral health information between health care providers and allows physicians to better manage care of patients. The Medical Society has played a leadership role on this issue since last year, when it convened a stakeholders group to address problems in the District's health laws, provide careful review of the bill and suggest amendments to address patient privacy concerns. The Medical Society will continue to follow the bill as it is implemented.

3. Increased Physician and Patient Discretion on Contraceptive Care. With [passage into law of the "Access to Contraceptives Amendment Act of 2015,"](#) physicians and their patients are able to determine the length of time for which contraceptive prescriptions can be written, rather than adhere to insurer rules limiting dispensation to 30 or 90 days. Continuation of contraceptive care helps to increase patient compliance and reduce unintended pregnancy, which is good for public health and women's health.

The Medical Society is the voice of physicians in the District of Columbia and it is currently monitoring multiple pieces of legislation at the district and federal levels relating to physician reimbursement, patient access to Medicare, narrowing of networks, state-mandated nurse staffing quotas and more. The [Medical Society's advocacy efforts](#) and other issues critical to the practice of medicine will be discussed at the Medical Society's Annual Meeting and Reception on October 28, 2015. If you haven't registered yet, don't delay. Read more about the meeting and how to register [here](#).

The MSDC Annual Meeting Is Taking Place in Twelve Days

Join Us on October 28!

The Medical Society's Annual Meeting and Reception will take place **from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM on October 28, 2015, at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health.** [Register today](#) for the Medical Society's all-member event, which includes socializing with MSDC member physicians from across the metropolitan Washington area. The meeting will also include:

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-Keynote Address by DC Department of Health Director LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH

In her Keynote Address, Dr. Nesbitt will discuss critical healthcare issues for District physicians and their patients, including the topic of health equity in the District of Columbia. Following her address, there will be ample time for questions from the audience.



2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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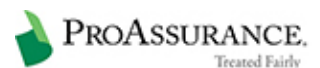
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MSDC 1817 SOCIETY



CORPORATE PARTNERS

-Installation of 2015-16 Leadership

Carla C. Sandy, MD, of The Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group will be installed as 2015-16 President, along with the incoming 2015-16 MSDC Leadership team.

-Award Presentation to the DC Tobacco Free Coalition

The DC Tobacco Free Coalition has been selected by the MSDC Board of Directors to receive this year's John Benjamin Nicholas Award. The John Benjamin Nicholas Award is presented to an organization in recognition of outstanding contributions to the health of the community. For more information on the meeting or to register, see the [meeting website](#).

Thank You to Our Meeting Supporters

The Medical Society would like to thank its 2015 Annual Meeting Sponsors for their generous support: **Medical Society Services, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, ProAssurance, Nixon Medical Wear and Uniform Services, Johns Hopkins Healthcare, Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Washington Radiology Associates and Zane Networks**. For information on how you can participate in Medical Society's meetings, contact [Pia Duryea](#).

MSDC Welcomes New Member

The following physician recently joined the Medical Society:

Jason Rose, MD

Increasing Your Bottom Line: Using Modifier 24 to Indicate an Unrelated Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician During a Postoperative Period

Provided by Novitas Solutions

The "Increasing Your Bottom Line" series is presented by Novitas Solutions as an aid to help your organization submit your Medicare Part B claims accurately the first time. The next article in the series focuses on the correct use of Modifier 24.

[Modifier 24](#) is defined as "Unrelated evaluation and management (E/M) service by the same physician during a postoperative period." Reopenings related to this modifier are most commonly needed simply because the modifier was not used within the postoperative period. For more information, read [the entire article](#).

Significant savings are possible for your organization by reducing rework. As it relates to Medicare billing, the best way to reduce rework and the accompanying costs is to submit your Medicare claims accurately upon initial submission. For more articles, see the [entire "Increasing Your Bottom Line" series](#).

DC Health Information Exchange Policy Board Is Seeking Applications

Deadline to Apply is October 23

The District of Columbia's [HIE Policy Board](#) is accepting applications to join the Board. Established in 2012, the Board consists of 21 members, including one member dedicated to an individual representing the Medical Society of D.C. The Board is looking for members who have experience in technology and health care that can help advance the reach and scope of HIE in the District. Members are appointed for a three-year term and the Board typically meets quarterly. To apply, complete [this short application](#) by Friday October 23.



CMS Issues Final Meaningful Use Rules

In a [statement](#), the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) announced a 60-day public comment period "to gather additional feedback about the EHR incentive programs going forward, in particular with the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)." Dr. Patrick Conway, deputy administrator for innovation and quality at CMS, told reporters that the rule offers flexibility to providers still working to achieve Stage 2 goals. According to the American Medical Association (AMA), Conway also "asked for patience from critics calling on the administration to wait until 2017 to set the Stage 3 criteria." The AMA has argued that is necessary because it was developed 'prior to and without consideration of the changes enacted by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act.' Read more in a [CMS fact sheet](#).



Access CDC Information on Pediatric Influenza and the Opioid Overdose Epidemic

Below are recently recorded CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) calls which can be accessed any time on demand.

[How to Prevent and Control Pediatric Influenza](#)

During this COCA call, subject matter experts will discuss strategies that providers can use to improve influenza prevention and control in children at highest risk. Learn more [here](#).

[The Role of Clinicians in Addressing the Opioid Overdose Epidemic](#)

During this COCA Call, participants will learn about the drivers of the increases in opioid-related morbidity and mortality and steps clinicians can take to reverse these concerning trends. Learn more [here](#).



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. According to the [National Cancer Institute](#), about 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. See the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Breast Cancer Awareness website](#) for more information.

CLASSIFIEDS

Brought to you by MSDC's 1817 Society Member and Personnel Provider [Favorite Healthcare](#). Contact [Favorite Healthcare](#) for your staffing needs.



Board-Certified Rehabilitation Physician for Hire

A Board-Certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician is available for hire. Licensed to practice in Maryland, the physician has five years of interventional spine and pain management experience. For more information on this doctor, call 202-407-9936 or email MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com.

Referring Physicians: Mental Health Services

Gerald P. Perman, MD, is accepting patients for consultation, psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy. He is a Board-Certified psychiatrist near Washington Circle at 2424 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037. His office is close to the Foggy Bottom Metro and he has a parking space for patients. Go to drperman.com. Call with questions at 202-331-8213 or email at gpperman@gmail.com

EVENTS

Medical Musical Group

October 18, 2015

4:00 PM

Live Webcast

The webcast features singer Deana Martin (daughter of Dean Martin), Police Officer/Tenor Daniel Rodriguez, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers (Ret.), Clifton Truman Daniel, journalist Eleanor Clift, former New England Patriot Darryl Haley, Veterans Advocate Ed Chow, and others. Krystal Ball and Touré, lately of MSNBC's "The Cycle", host the magical and nostalgic event. Visit

www.medicalmusicalgroup.org for more information.

Medical Musical Group

2015 National Veterans Day Concert

November 1, 2015

4:00 PM

Schlesinger Concert Hall (4915 East Campus Lane, Alexandria, VA)

Enjoy this celebration of faith and patriotism, featuring Rhonda Vincent and Daniel Rodriguez. More information is available [online](#).

AMA-Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) Interim Meeting

November 12-14, 2015

Hilton Atlanta (Atlanta, GA)

The 2015 American Medical Association Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) Interim Meeting will be held Nov. 12–14 at the Hilton Atlanta. Join your medical staff colleagues from around the country for three days of education programs, policy-making sessions and networking opportunities. View the [meeting agenda](#). The meeting is open to members and non-members. Please [register for the meeting](#) by November 6.

MedChi of DC Christmas Gala

December 18, 2015

JW Marriott (13th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC)

There will be a live band and live DJ; Great food and exciting, festive, funfilled atmosphere. Please contact Mae Walton with questions or to attend. Ms. Walton may be contacted at 301-495-0042 (Work) or by email at msw213@aol.com.

MEDICAL REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

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

Bethesda Home Office for Sale

Bethesda, MD, home office for sale, near good schools (Burning Tree walking distance), large lot. Office is 4BR, 2Bath with 2 chairs, Ceph Pan lab. \$950K negotiable. Call 301-229-0232.

1145 Medical Office Building

1145 19th St NW

Washington, DC 20036

The medical office building is within walking distance to hospitals and metro stations. Please contact [Peter](#)

[Papantoniou](#) 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](#) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.



2015 Medical Society of the District of Columbia.