

# MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*eNewsline*

November 25, 2015

Vol. 22, No. 19

## Thank You

As we enter this season for "giving thanks," the Medical Society of the District of Columbia wants to thank you. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to your profession, Thank you for your tireless service to your patients, and Thank you for your enduring support of the Medical Society. We can't say it enough .... THANK YOU.

Everyone at the Medical Society of the District of Columbia - from the physician leaders to the entire staff - wishes you and your family a very safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

## TOP STORIES

- > [DC and Regional Advocacy](#): DC's Universal Paid Leave and Death With Dignity Acts; Pennsylvania Mcare Refunds
- > [National Advocacy](#): Physicians Address Healthcare Insurance Consolidation, Opioid Abuse, Prescription Drug Costs and Meaningful Use
- > [Medicare Updates](#): 2016 Physician Fee Schedule and Documentation Process Reminder
- > [Increased Patient Assistance for Prescription Drugs](#) from Pfizer
- > [Talking to Youth about Terrorism and War](#)

## District and Regional Advocacy

### DC's Universal Paid Leave Act; Share the Impact on Your Practice

On October 6, 2015, DC Councilmembers David Grosso and Elissa Silverman introduced the [Universal Paid Leave Act of 2015](#) which will provide 16 weeks of paid leave funded by a 1% tax on wages. The Medical Society is working with the DC Chamber of Commerce Employment Law Working Group to review the proposed legislation. For more specifics about the legislation and how it would be implemented, download an [explainer](#) by the DC Chamber.

A hearing for the proposed legislation will take place on December 2, 2015, and the DC Chamber would like to know the impact on physician practices. Please complete the [online survey](#).

### What Do You Think About DC's Death With Dignity Act?

The Medical Society would like physician input on the [Death with Dignity Act of 2015](#). If you haven't done so yet, please take this [survey](#) and tell the Medical Society what you think about the legislation.

### Pennsylvania's Mcare Mails Refund Notices to Physicians

From Michael R. Fraser, Executive Vice President, Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED)  
Earlier this year, I advised you about a settlement of litigation involving the Pennsylvania Mcare Fund, a medical liability coverage fund that is operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is funded by assessments on physicians and other health care providers.

## MSDC eNewsline

### Editor

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## 2015-16 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PAMED was a party to that settlement and has been working with Mcare and other parties to implement the refund component of the settlement. Mcare is required to refund a portion of the assessments paid for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014 – \$139 million in total.

On November 16, 2015, Mcare mailed notice letters to physicians and other eligible health care providers with information about the refunds for their coverage. Physicians in your state may be eligible for a refund and have been sent a notice letter if they practiced in Pennsylvania in a covered year.

PAMED has created a dedicated website – [www.McareRefund.org](http://www.McareRefund.org) – with extensive information on the settlement. It was recently updated to include a suite of information to assist physicians understand the steps they need to take to assure proper payment of their refunds. You may also read more [here](#).

*Editor's Note:* If you practiced in Pennsylvania and paid an Mcare assessment (or an assessment was paid for you) for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2014, you may be eligible for a refund. Visit [www.McareRefund.org](http://www.McareRefund.org) for more details.

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### Physicians Speak Out at American Medical Association Interim Meeting; MSDC Student Members Assume Leadership Roles in the House of Medicine

The American Medical Association (AMA) held its Interim Meeting November 14 through 17 in Atlanta. The AMA House of Delegates, the AMA policy-making body which includes 540 physicians and medical students representing every state and medical specialty, adopted policy to:

- Increase investigation on health insurance consolidation and its impact on patients . [Read more.](#)
- Ban direct to consumer advertising of prescription drugs and medical devices. [Read more.](#)
- Increase access to naloxone by asking manufacturers to pursue the Food and Drug Administration's application process for approval of naloxone as an over-the-counter medication.
- Combat the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria in health care facilities through improved surveillance, antibiotic stewardship programs, and support for incentivizing antibiotic development.
- Seek revisions to quality standards and Meaningful Use requirements to make them more streamlined, usable, and less burdensome. ([Take this survey](#) and help improve EHRs)

Read more about the [Interim Meeting](#).

### Congratulations to MSDC Student Members Omar Maniya and Ashtin Jeney

Two Medical Society student members were recognized by their peers at the AMA meeting. Omar Maniya, an MD/MBA student at Georgetown University School of Medicine & Harvard Business School, was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in a seat slotted for student members. Ashtin Jeney, a second-year medical student at the George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences, was elected as a regional Alternate Delegate.

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### AMA Guide to Physician-Focused Alternative Payment Models

The legislation that repealed the SGR, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), created major new opportunities to advance alternative payment models (APMs). For services furnished from 2019 through 2024, MACRA provides a 5% annual bonus payment to physicians who participate in APMs and it exempts them from participating in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

In addition to accountable care organizations, medical homes, and bundled payments for hospital-based episodes, MACRA also provides for the development of "physician-focused" APMs. The AMA has developed a "[Guide to Physician-Focused Alternative Payment Models](#)" describing seven different APMs that can help physicians in every specialty redesign the way they deliver care in order to improve patient care, manage health care spending, and qualify for APM annual bonus payments:

- APM #1. Payment for a High-Value Service
- APM #2. Condition-Based Payment for Physician Services
- APM #3. Multi-Physician Bundled Payment
- APM #4. Physician-Facility Procedure Bundle
- APM #5. Warranted Payment for Physician Services
- APM #6. Episode Payment for a Procedure
- APM #7. Condition-Based Payment

**Joseph E. Gutierrez, MD**  
*Treasurer; AMA Delegation Chair*

**Peter E. Lavine, MD**  
*AMA Delegate*

**J. Desiree Pineda, MD**  
*AMA Alternate Delegate*

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*At-large*

**Angus Worthing, MD**  
*At-Large*

**K. Edward Shanbacker**  
*Executive Vice President*

### MSDC 1817 SOCIETY



### CORPORATE PARTNERS



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## Medicare Updates from Novitas Solutions

### Reminder: Correct Process to Return Medical Review Documentation Requests

Novitas Solutions' Medical Review Department continues to experience improper submission of documentation in response to an Additional Documentation Request (ADR). Please take this opportunity to review the important information provided in [How to Correctly Submit Documentation for ADRs](#).

### 2016 Medicare Physician's Fee Schedule Available

The [Medicare Physician's Fee Schedule for 2016](#) is available for download in PDF, Excel, and text formats. 2016 procedure codes will also be individually searchable through a [Fee Lookup Tool](#) beginning on January 5, 2016.

### Improving Your Bottom Line: Using Modifier 79 Correctly to Indicate An Unrelated Procedure During the Post-Operative Period

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. Modifier 79 is used to identify an unrelated procedure performed by the same physician during the post-operative period of a surgery. The primary error Novitas sees related to Modifier 79 is providers simply failing to append it to a procedure code which results in a claim denial. [Read more](#).

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## Organized Medicine Addresses Health Insurance Consolidation and Its Impact on Patients

In light of the recently proposed mergers among four of the nation's largest health insurance companies, the AMA adopted policy aimed at strengthening its efforts to ensure consumers maintain access to quality, affordable health care in the insurance marketplace. New AMA policy calls on the federal government to examine health insurance industry consolidation in the U.S. over the last five to ten years before allowing further mergers of health insurance companies.

The AMA has issued a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) calling on the agency to block Aetna's proposed acquisition of Humana and Anthem's proposed acquisition of Cigna due to the negative impact such mergers could pose for patients and the physicians who care for them. Earlier this year, the AMA conducted [analyses of these mergers based on data](#) compiled annually by the AMA on competition in health insurance, peer-reviewed studies, and expert testimony from House and Senate hearings, which showed that proposed acquisitions would likely impair consumer access to, affordability of, and innovation for health insurance. [Read more](#).

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## Pfizer Increases Prescription Drug Assistance

MSDC Corporate Partner Pfizer recently announced that in response to the ongoing challenges patients face in paying their out-of-pocket costs for their prescription medicines, Pfizer is doubling the allowable income level for its patient assistance program so even more patients can benefit from the program. With this expansion, more than 40 brands offered for free through the program will now be available to eligible patients earning up to four times the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) adjusted for family size (\$47,080 for a single person; \$97,000 for a family of four).

Patients who may not qualify for free medicines through our program, Pfizer offers medicine access counseling to help patients get connected to the appropriate Pfizer assistance program and services that might be able to help, including:

- Savings ranging from 35% to 50% off the retail price on Pfizer medicines for uninsured patients regardless of income
- Insurance counseling for select Pfizer medicines to help patients understand the coverage offered through their insurance plans
- Referrals to other industry resources that may help if it is discovered a patient is not taking a Pfizer medicine

Learn more about the program at [PfizerRxPathways](#).

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## Talking to Children about Terrorism and War

As the holidays approach, terrorism and violence are in the news. Most children and youth will cope well with the support of families, friends and other adults. However, children who suffer from depression or other mental illnesses, have a history of traumatic experiences or personal loss, or have special needs may be at greater risk for developing more significant reactions. The DC Department of Behavioral Health has released tips and resources for parents and caregivers on [talking to children about terrorism and war](#). #

Network Services



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## MSDC News

### Medical Society Holiday Schedule

The Medical Society offices will be closed November 26 and 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The offices will reopen on Monday, November 30.

### Save the Date: December 1 is Giving Tuesday

The Medical Society Alliance and Foundation, the Medical Society's non-profit arm, manages funds and makes contributions to benefit physician health, and promote scientific education for residents, medical students, high school students, and the public. Please consider giving to MSAF in celebration of [GivingTuesday](#), a global day for giving back.

### MSDC Board Meeting on December 14

MSDC will hold its last board meeting of the year on December 14, 2015, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will take place at the MSDC headquarters (1250 23rd Street NW, 2nd floor, Washington, DC). MSDC members who wish to attend may request an invitation from Ed Shanbacker ([shanbacker@msdc.org](mailto:shanbacker@msdc.org))

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## Call for Abstracts for International Conference on Physician Health

In 2016, the AMA, along with the Canadian Medical Association and the British Medical Association, is hosting the International Conference on Physician Health™. This conference is held every other year and is hosted by one of the founding associations. The AMA is hosting in 2016 and the conference will take place September 18-20, 2016 in Boston, MA. This is a research driven conference and the agenda is determined by abstract submissions. The call for abstracts will be open from October 1, 2015 through February 1, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Lipinski at [lisa.lipinski@ama-assn.org](mailto:lisa.lipinski@ama-assn.org) or 312-464-5036.

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## 2016 PQRS Payment Adjustment: Informal Review Deadline

In 2016, CMS will apply a negative payment adjustment to individual eligible professionals, Comprehensive Primary Care practice sites, and group practices participating in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) group practice reporting option, including Accountable Care Organizations that did not satisfactorily report PQRS in 2014. Individuals and groups that receive the 2016 negative payment adjustment will not receive a 2014 PQRS incentive payment.

If you believe you have been incorrectly assessed for the 2016 PQRS negative payment adjustment, you can submit an informal review through November 23, 2015. Requests must be submitted electronically via the Communication Support Page under the [Related Links section of the Physician and Other Health Care Professionals Quality Reporting Portal](#). See the [fact sheet](#) and [Analysis and Payment web page](#) for more information.

### Additional Resources

- [Payment Adjustment Information](#) web page
- [Payment Adjustment Toolkit](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

For additional questions, contact the QualityNet Help Desk at 866-288-8912 (TTY 1-877-715-6222) or via [qnetssupport@hcqis.org](mailto:qnetssupport@hcqis.org) from 7am to 7pm CT Monday through Friday.

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## 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](mailto:MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com).

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### **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](http://drperman.com). Call with questions at 202-331-8213 or email at [gpperman@gmail.com](mailto:gpperman@gmail.com).

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## **EVENTS**

### **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 [m213@aol.com](mailto:mw213@aol.com). See the [downloadable flyer](#).

### **The Bridge to Quality Health Care in The District of Columbia**

January 14, 2016

8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute

692 Maritime Boulevard

Linthicum Heights, MD

You are invited to a free, all-day conference. Participants will discuss the linkage of payment to quality and the impact of failures of the health care system to provide coordination of care. For more information, contact [shawk@delmarvafoundation.org](mailto:shawk@delmarvafoundation.org)

## **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.

### **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](#) 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.

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[@@unsubscribe\\_url@@](#)

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