



Midyear Update from MSDC President Carla C. Sandy, MD May 2016

Dear Colleague,

Just over six months ago, I was installed as your President, and I am honored to represent the 2,800 members of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) physician community. Your physician leadership and Medical Society staff have been very active on local legislation, regional healthcare issues, national advocacy and public health concerns and I would like to update you on our work. [The Medical Society plays a critical role in healthcare bills in the District of Columbia](#) and vigorously advocates to support metropolitan Washington physicians and your patients on a range of topics, including physician payment, licensure and liability, administrative hassles, public health and patient care.



Carla C. Sandy, MD
MSDC President, 2015-16

Advocacy on National Medicare Payment Reform, DC Licensure and Burdensome Insurer Practices

Nationally, the transition to a new Medicare payment system carries on. The Medical Society arranged for member physicians to help CMS understand the real world impact of reporting requirements on physician practices in drafting new rules. [Just last week, CMS proposed new rules to revise Medicare payment](#) by offering a modified fee-for-service option and alternative payment model. The Medical Society is working with federation partners to amplify physician concerns so that the model is sustainable and relevant to the real-world practice of medicine. We will continue to keep you informed as the new payment system evolves.

This is a licensure renewal year and during the relicensure period, I encourage you to see the Medical Society as your go-to source of information regarding licensure requirements, deadlines, educational opportunities and resources. This year, we must complete three hours of continuing medical education in HIV/AIDS, and MSDC will be offering members a variety of low and no-cost opportunities to comply with this requirement. In addition, the Medical Society is able to help members receive a timely response to complaints or snafus.

The Medical Society continues to advocate against onerous insurer practices. The practice of cost-shifting places the financial burden of necessary medications onto insured patients, significantly impacting those living with chronic illness and life-threatening conditions. The Medical Society secured a Public Hearing on a bill to limit excessive copays and it continues to lead a stakeholder group on this legislation. In addition, the Medical Society assists physician members in claims disputes with private or public payers and it can help to address insurer hassles and delays.

At a recent Board Meeting, your physician leadership continued to address the issue of opioid abuse and prescription drug monitoring. MSDC's leadership supported a bill addressing physician liability so that physicians are empowered to treat overdose patients. As the District continues to develop its Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to help stem opioid abuse, MSDC has worked to ensure voluntary physician use of this valuable tool and will continue to work with the DC government to assist the DC patient population.

Which Issues Matter to You?

The Medical Society also wants to hear from you and know which issues matter to you. [Please take this quick, one-question survey](#) to provide feedback or comments on the bills and issues that are critical to you and your patients.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Sandy, MD
President, 2015-16
Medical Society of the District of Columbia

P.S. Save the date, October 26, 2016, for MSDC's 2016 Annual Meeting and Reception.