

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, with its component medical societies, is the only association that represents ALL of Maryland physicians. We would like to thank our members for their continuing support and congratulate them on achieving these legislative victories.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

MedChi successfully opposed the trial lawyers, who attempted to raise the cap for non-economic damages, lower the standard for punitive awards, and repeal the 20% rule, which would have destabilized the insurance market and raised insurance premiums.

MEDICAID BUDGET

MedChi effectively maintained the Medicaid E&M codes at 94% of Medicare, as well as Medicaid funding for FY 2018, despite a threat that Medicaid will be underfunded by \$100.6 million.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE GOUGING

Manufacturers or wholesale distributors will be prohibited from engaging in “price gouging” in the sale of “essential off-patent or generic drugs,” easing the concerns of physicians and patients alike. Maryland is the FIRST state to pass a law of this nature.

GAINSHARING – SELF-REFERRAL

HB 403 / SB 369 amended the Maryland Patient Referral to exempt practitioners who have compensation arrangements with health care entities funded by federal programs, from Maryland’s self-referral law, thereby allowing physicians to have greater opportunities to meet MACRA requirements.

PHYSICIAN LICENSING: SPECIALTIES

MedChi’s initiative lessened the cost and administrative burden of physician licensing with the passing of HB 1054/SB989, which prohibits the State Board of Physicians from requiring specialty certification and maintenance requirements for physician licenses.

UPDATES TO WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

MedChi successfully advocated for physicians to have at least 12 months, instead of 45 days, to submit claims for medical services.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

MedChi worked together with the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians, and Surgeons to prevent the broad expansion of the optometric scope of practice.

OPIOID CRISIS

Prescription Initiative

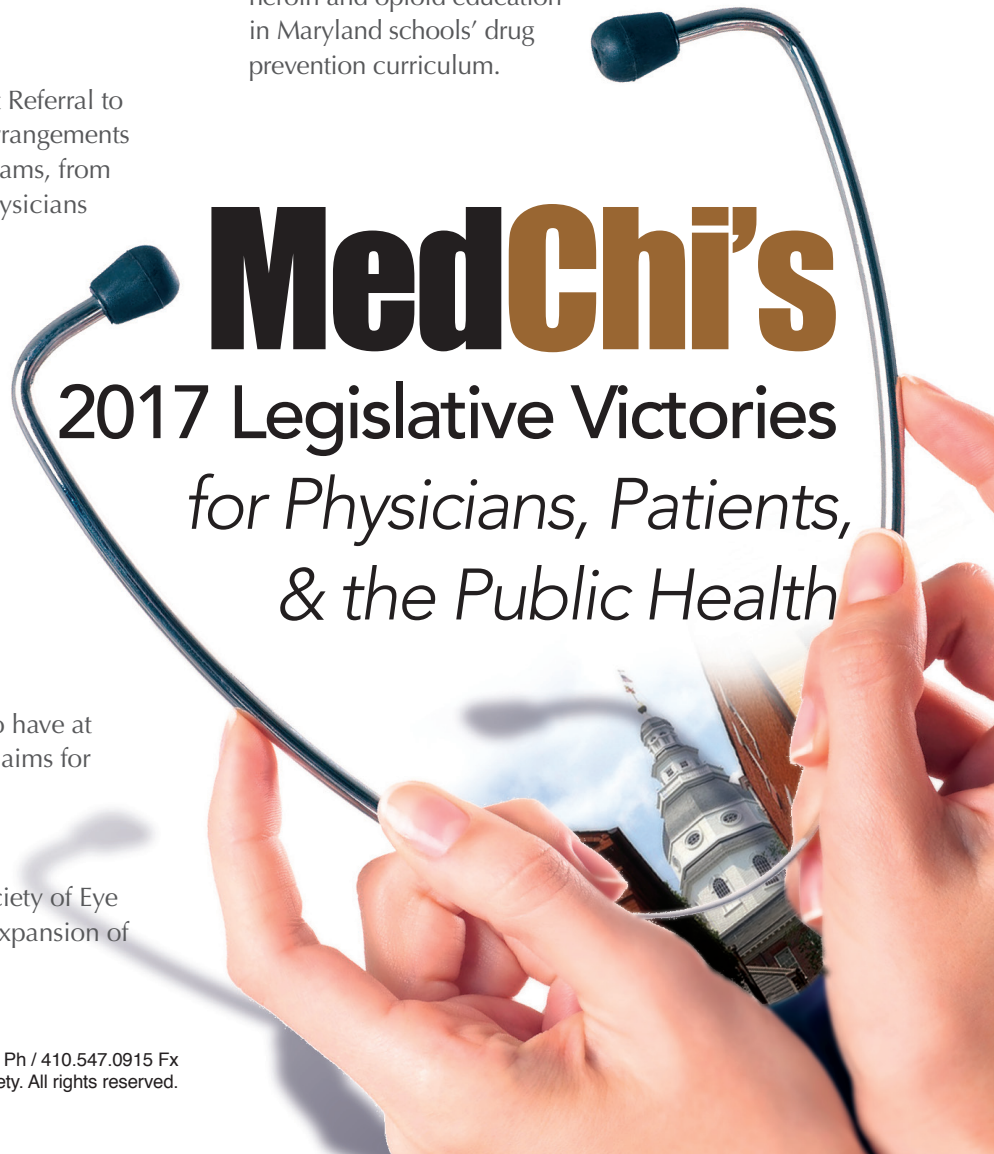
Due to MedChi’s efforts, the seven-day limit on prescribing opioids was rejected, and treatment and education will be based on clinical guidelines, type of services the patients requires, as well as the health and age of the patient.

Treatment Initiative

Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017 will expand treatment opportunities to include establishment of crisis centers, toll-free health crisis hotline, hospital discharge protocols, and guidelines for co-prescribing of opioid overdose reversal drugs, in addition to others.

Education Initiative

Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act) will include heroin and opioid education in Maryland schools’ drug prevention curriculum.



MedChi's 2017 Legislative Victories *for Physicians, Patients, & the Public Health*