



WHAT HAS MedChi DONE FOR ME?

MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, is the state's largest and most effective body representing physicians for you, your patients and the public's health. When you consider the ways in which MedChi's legislative initiatives benefit the practice of medicine in Maryland it is easy to see why your membership and contributions to the MMPAC are essential to your profession.

INSURANCE REFORM MedChi has upheld physicians' economic rights while supporting the best interest of your patients with one of the first Appeal and Grievance laws in the U.S., with legislation outlawing contractual abuse such as denial of preauthorized services and "most favored nation" reimbursement rate clauses. MedChi achieved these successes:

- Enhanced physicians' reimbursement rights in HMOs. A leader in HMO reform, MedChi has also limited insurers' ability to mandate burdensome and punitive requirements.
- Supported legislation that prohibited declaring a private practice physician a "participating provider" because of work performed in a contracting clinic or emergency department.
- Advocated to disallow "cram down" requirements that forced doctors to participate in all of a insurers' panels.
 - Limited retroactive denials by insurers to six months.
 - Simplified preauthorization procedures by requiring insurers to adopt electronic preauthorization systems.
 - Established new payment methodology for non-par physicians treating Maryland HMO patients.
 - And, as a result of MedChi's efforts, insurers are required to do the following:
 - *Disclose CPT code payment amounts on request.*
 - *Recognize an Assignment of Benefits (AOB).*
 - *Treat patients' expenses for different modalities for chemotherapy equally.*
 - *Reimburse physicians with a rate for telemedicine services that is consistent with reimbursement for in-person services.*

TORT REFORM AND JUDICIAL ADVOCACY

For more than a decade MedChi, a tireless advocate for meaningful tort reform, has successfully defeated all Maryland Trial Bar efforts to weaken or eliminate current medical malpractice protections that threaten a physician's ability to provide health care services in Maryland. MedChi's successes include these:

- Repeatedly defeated comparative negligence legislation and efforts to weaken expert witness requirements.
- Defeated attempts by the trial bar to remove the allowable cap on non-economic damages in wrongful death cases. In all cases, the Court of Appeals ruled that the cap was constitutional.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MedChi is a national leader in supporting legislation that facilitates physicians' adoption of electronic health records, and has achieved the following:

- Provided appropriate privacy protections including passage of the first and only EHR incentive program in the nation requiring Maryland's commercial carriers to pay primary care physicians an incentive for EHR adoption.
- Successfully lobbied the State to create the State-Regulated Payor EHR Incentive Program.

Thanks to MedChi, Maryland is the only state with additional incentives above the Federal Medicare/Medicaid Meaningful Use program. MedChi also was instrumental in the passage of legislation that prohibited the Health Insurance Exchange from selling "de-identified" health insurance information. →

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND

NETWORK ADEQUACY To address the growing physician-shortage, MedChi lead initiatives to give physicians tax credits and other financial incentives for those between “physicians” and “tax credits” including these:

- State income tax credits.
- Loan repayment assistance.
- Priority to enter the Patient Centered Medical Home program.
- Priority for receipt of any State funding available for electronic health records.
- The ability to apply to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for a grant to defray the cost of capital or leasehold improvements to medical equipment used in a HEZ.

In addition, MedChi championed these goals:

- Worked to pass network advocacy requirements and substantially increased insurers’ accountability for network adequacy.
- Advocated to pass loan-assistance repayment programs to reimburse school costs of Maryland physicians working in shortage areas.

MEDICAID REFORM With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid enrollment has increased dramatically making Medicaid a dominant payer in the marketplace. Adequate reimbursement and the fair application of insurance reform requirements to Medicaid’s managed care organizations is critical and MedChi delivered these wins:

- Increased E&M code reimbursement for all Maryland physicians participating with Medicaid to Medicare rates. Maryland is one of the few states in the nation to include all physicians and to retain the fee increase after federal subsidies terminate.
- Ensured that MCOs are required to adhere to the majority of claims adjudication laws applicable to insurance carriers.

MedChi continues to recognize physicians’ commitment to your patients and the communities in which you serve by protecting and advancing successful public health enactments. MedChi has recently partnered with Sugar Free Kids, a statewide coalition, to advocate for childhood obesity prevention.

“How Can I Continue the Fight for My Patients, The Public’s Health and My Profession?” We need your support to keep MedChi strong. Join MedChi today by mail, phone or online at www.medchi.org and click the “Join” button. And remember to give to the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee. Please refer to our current legislative agenda and visit the Law and Advocacy section of our website for more information.

PHYSICIAN LICENSING AND REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

MedChi has successfully worked to ensure a fair, efficient and equitable regulatory framework for the licensure of physicians and the practice of medicine with these achievements:

- Opposed licensure and other fee increases.
- Reformed physician disciplinary processes such as summary suspension provisions, elimination of requirement to go before DHMH’s Board of Review, supported expansion of the Board and adoption of Board processes to accelerate disposition of cases, and other structural provisions.
- Defeated legislative initiatives prohibiting or limiting physicians’ authority to dispense medication and to regulate certain physician practices under the Board of Pharmacy.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVANCEMENTS MedChi has advanced public health initiatives including these:

- Increased tobacco and alcohol taxes.
- Advocated to prohibit minors’ use of tanning beds.
- Enhanced access to care in medically underserved areas.
- Aligned Maryland’s HIV testing laws with CDC guidelines.
- Introduced driving safety requirements.
- Developed minors’ safety initiatives, such as a ban on the sale of crib bumpers and support for school administration of epinephrine. Please refer to our current legislative agenda and visit the Law and Advocacy section of our website for more information.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE MedChi’s national models for collaborative oversight by physicians protect the integrity of your profession and have successfully retained the physician’s role as the leader of the healthcare team.

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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