MedChi leadership plays a key role in developing legislative solutions to the opioid crisis in Maryland.

MedChi’s Opioid Committee is an interdisciplinary workgroup that strives to evaluate, develop, and share balanced, evidence-based, and effective responses to the opioid epidemic in Maryland. The committee examines legislative remedies, clinical tools, and alternative treatments in collaboration with a coalition of like-minded organizations that seek to effect significant improvements in the health of Marylanders.

MedChi’s Opioid Tool Kit provides examples of clinical tools including patient risk assessments, sample medication agreement, pain management log, pain inventories and assessments, checklist for prescribing opioids for chronic pain, safe use guidelines, and opioid reference guides.

MedChi is working to develop policies and guidelines for medication-assisted treatment in Maryland. Buprenorphine training programs and buprenorphine prescribing waivers for residents are two key approaches to increasing access to MAT for patients in Maryland.

Kathleen Keeffe Hough, MD, Chair of MedChi’s Public Health Committee, is spear-heading efforts to increase access to medication-assisted treatment.

MedChi has collaborated with the FDA to offer “ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care” since 2014. We currently have online education focused on opioids related to prescribing, dispensing, and managing opioids, and using the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as a clinical tool for prescribing and managing opioids.

MedChi worked with Dr. Sarah Meritt to develop a live CME on Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder which is also being developed for online access.

Accredited activities to fulfill mandated educational requirements for CDS prescribers are being offered across the state and online.

MedChi is Maryland’s foremost advocate and resource for physicians, patients, and the public health.