

# COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN MARYLAND



## OPIOID TASK FORCE

Founded in 2017 by Gary Pushkin, MD, (left), MedChi's Opioid Task Force is an interdisciplinary workgroup that strives to evaluate, develop, and share balanced, evidence-based, and effective responses to the opioid epidemic in Maryland. The task force 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.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ Governor Hogan's Opioid Operational Command Center
- ◆ Maryland Department of Health
- ◆ Maryland Board of Physicians
- ◆ DrFirst (iPrescribe)
- ◆ Maryland Patient Safety Center
- ◆ University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
- ◆ Drug Enforcement Administration
- ◆ American Medical Association

## OPIOID TOOL KIT

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

## **MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT**

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

Richard Bruno, MD, Chair of MedChi's Public Health Committee (right) is spear-heading efforts to increase access to MAT.



## **PHYSICIAN EDUCATION**

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 Merritt 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.**

### **FOR EMPLOYED PHYSICIANS**

Model Employment Contract  
Compensation Survey  
Online CME Presentations on Physician Employment

### **FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE PHYSICIANS**

Practice Support Services  
Complimentary Practice Assessment  
No-obligation Insurance Review from the MedChi Insurance Agency

### **FOR ALL PHYSICIANS**

Maryland Physician Health Program  
Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy  
Continuing Medical Education  
Public Health Advocacy & Resources

**[www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org)**

