

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass
Maryland House of Delegates
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Sent via email to shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass:

It was nice running into you today. I am writing to follow up on your inquiry regarding continuing medical education (CME) requests made by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2018 Session. As you are aware, Legislative leadership asked the Board of Physicians to complete CME courses in three areas: the opioid epidemic, sickle cell and Lyme disease. You asked me to have MedChi review the materials the Board has provided and report back.

It is my understanding that the Board responded that they completed the requirement by providing free CMEs from other sources on their website with regard to sickle cell and Lyme disease. Furthermore, they expressed a desire to move forward with the opioid CME.

The training regarding Lyme disease is high quality, but as you are aware, there is a split in the medical community on this issue, and what is provided is on the more traditional side. It is my understanding that the CME language was added to the budget to eliminate other legislation regarding Lyme disease that both the Board and MedChi opposed. The CME is as follows:

1. Infectious Disease Society of America. A Lyme disease case study course will be available once the new IDSA/AAN/ACR Lyme Disease Guidelines are published. It will be available at [IDSA/AAN/ACR Lyme disease guidelines](#).
2. A free, CDC-sponsored Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) course helps providers learn to properly identify and treat tick-borne diseases (CME/CNE/CECH available). This course is available online at [Little Bite, Big Disease: Recognizing and Managing Tick-borne Illnesses](#).
3. The National Association of School Nurses presents an online course titled [Tick-borne Illness: Prevention, Assessment and Care](#) that focuses on clinical care of tick-borne diseases in school and camp settings. CME is available.

With regard to sickle cell, the resources and CME on the Board website are very good and well-recognized. MedChi would be willing to promote access to the Board website and these resources to physicians. The specific CME on their website is described below and clearly meets the intent of the Legislature. On this issue, other than promotion of the materials, no further work needs to be done.

1. [Provider Training Video Series: Reducing Complications of Therapeutic Blood Transfusions in Sickle Cell Disease](#) is a four-part educational video series for healthcare providers. Created in collaboration with the CDC and the Georgia Health Policy Center, the training series is designed to

provide information about and strategies for reducing transfusion complications in people with SCD. For CME/CNE credits, go to cdc.gov/TCEOnline, click search and type in the course number and the module title. The course number starts with a 'WD' and is followed by 4 numbers.

As to the final CME on opioids, we are not sure of the status. In full disclosure, MedChi did respond to a request for information on this issue, quite some time ago. This issue is one MedChi strongly supports and thinks should move forward. We have independently been educating physicians on this issue; I believe the Board agrees with this position.

I hope this review is helpful and responsive to your question.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Damean Freas, Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians
Ms. Christine Farrelly, Executive Director, Maryland Board of Physicians