



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI CONDUCTS PHYSICIAN MEDICAID SURVEY

BALTIMORE, November 7, 2013 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society completed a survey of Maryland Physicians to determine the effect of changes to the Maryland Medicaid program. Over the last two years MedChi has worked very hard with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to advocate with the General Assembly an increase in Medicaid rates.

“Increasing payment for Medicaid services has been a top priority for the Society.” MedChi CEO Gene Ransom explained “more service will be provided through the Medicaid program, and higher payment should increase the number of physicians who take Medicaid, and encourage physicians to enlarge Medicaid panels insuring access to care.” As of January 1, 2013, Medicaid rates for all physicians of all specialties were increased in Maryland to Medicare rates for Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes. Maryland is the only State in the nation to achieve this increase for all specialties.

In the survey the conducted, MedChi polled a group of 251 Maryland Physicians to determine their knowledge of the increase, and the effect on patients. The results of the poll included two key findings:

- Over 46% of physicians surveyed who do not accept Medicaid, are considering seeing Medicaid patients as the result of the increase
- Over 57% of physicians surveyed who do accept Medicaid, plan to increase the panel or number of Medicaid patients they see

For a full review of the survey results see www.medchi.org.

Willarda Edwards, MD a Past President of MedChi is one of the physicians who are reopening their panel. “Our office has always accepted Medicaid, because we saw it as a professional responsibility. Now with the higher payment we will be able to increase the number of Medicaid patients our office treats.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.