



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

**News: For Immediate Release**

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## **MARYLAND PATIENTS, PHYSICIANS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ARE BIG WINNERS IN 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

ANNAPOLIS, April 11, 2023 — MedChi’s advocacy was again in full swing this legislative session as we worked hard to protect patients and physicians, while also promoting increased access to health care. MedChi is pleased to report that Maryland’s budget includes funding to pay physicians a higher rate for Medicaid evaluation and management (E&M) codes than Medicare E&M codes—a win for Maryland patients and physicians alike.

In yet another win, MedChi was successful in its campaign to urge legislators to pass much needed the step therapy reform, and patients will soon be able to bypass certain treatments and move on to more effective ones without delay. Maryland’s legislators also heard us on the need for prior authorization reform and have committed to working with us in the interim on a solution that will streamline treatment for all Maryland patients.

Numerous bills relating to behavioral health were also passed, a fact deserving of celebration as behavioral health remains a top priority issue for MedChi and our current President James J. York, MD. MedChi will continue to push for behavioral health reform, including improving the administration of the current Medicaid behavioral health carve-out.

MedChi supported several important public health measures that passed. One, a cost-sharing bill, now requires commercial health insurance carriers that provide coverage for a “diagnostic breast examination” from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement for such examinations. This should help cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Other passed bills support coverage of lung cancer screening and required coverage for biomarker testing by health insurance carriers (effective January 1, 2024) and later, by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (beginning July 1, 2025).

A complete detailed report of MedChi’s activities during the session and the measures we worked on can be found [here](#).

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. 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](http://www.medchi.org).