MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Update

MSMA physicians have continued their participation in the Opioid Policy Advisory Council with the most recent meeting March 20 in Jefferson City. Assisting MO HealthNet at this meeting were MSMA members: Drs. David Barbe, Bridget Early, Fola Fasuyi, Alex Hover, Daniel Millspaugh, and Matt Stinson.

Prior authorization for opioids may be obtained by calling 800-392-8030 option 3 or through CyberAccess. Medicaid beneficiaries need a pain related diagnosis documented every six months – down from two years. No additional refills will be allowed if a one-time authorization is granted for a prescription if MO HealthNet requested information is not subsequently submitted.

Please contact Patrick Mills at pmills@msma.org or call 800-869-6762 if you have a specific MHD beneficiary opioid story to share.

New Leadership Elected at Annual Convention in Kansas City

James DiRenna, DO, (right), Family Physician from Kansas City, Missouri, took the helm of MSMA for 2019-2020 from Joe Corrado, MD, General Surgeon, from Mexico, Missouri, (left) after being installed as President during the Association’s 161st Annual Convention in Kansas City on April 6.

Numerous resolutions and reports were heard and adopted during the House of Delegates, and MSMA members earned many FREE hours of CME. Watch for in-depth coverage of the Annual Convention, including new officers, resolution results, and presentations at www.msma.org/convention-wrap. The May Progress Notes and the May/June issue of Missouri Medicine will feature complete reports.

Several bills this month are of particular interest to our doctors who specialize in pediatrics. The most contentious by far was HB 711, which would prohibit K-12 schools, colleges, and health care providers from discriminating against children who are unvaccinated. If passed, it would be incredibly difficult for physicians to prevent unvaccinated children from coming into contact with patient populations who may be otherwise immunocompromised.

MSMA testified against this bill in the House Health and Mental Health Committee, along with a group of intrepid pediatricians who waited hours for the chance to speak against this harmful bill. Other bills of interest include HB 1213 (prohibits tanning for kids under 18) and SB 87 (reauthorizes a tax refund donation check-off for pediatric cancer research), and another bill of concern is HB 1164 (requires informed consent before vaccinations may be given to a child).

Dozens of MSMA members responded with letters, emails, and calls after the Association sent a Call to Action urging physicians to reach out to committee members asking them to vote no on HB 711. We appreciate your voice in governing the practice of medicine in Missouri!
Prior Authorization Bill on Senate Calendar - Share Your Prior Auth Headaches with MSMA!

Many MSMA members are telling us about their increasing exasperation with the prior-authorization process in Missouri. Legislation that would streamline the process, improve patient care, and decrease administrative headaches is in the works so physicians and their staff can spend valuable time treating their patients.

Senate Bill 298 is on the Senate Calendar. It could receive floor debate at any time. Please continue to share your own story about a prior-authorization headache with the MSMA lobbying team. Email Heidi Geisbuhler at heidi@msma.org or call 800-869-6762.

Medical Marijuana and Controlled Substances Resources

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is the state agency tasked with developing the administrative rules and regulations regarding implementation of the medical marijuana amendment passed by voters last November.

MSMA anticipates publication of the proposed regulations late in the spring. MSMA will review and comment on the proposed regulations, which are likely to not become official until this summer. Until this occurs, no patient certifications will be issued by the state, and hence, no patient recommendations may be made by physicians. MSMA will continue to follow this issue closely and separate fact from fiction as we move closer to implementation. You can find a number of medical marijuana resources on the MSMA website at www.msma.org/medical-marijuana.html.

MSMA also publishes “Missouri’s Guide to Controlled Substances” which can be found at www.msma.org/guide-to-controlled-substances.

Helpful Information: CMS Medicare Learning Network Newsletter

The CMS Medicare Learning Network newsletter MLN Connects has a variety of information for physicians who treat Medicare beneficiaries. To sign up, go to www.cms.gov, scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address into the “Receive Email Updates” box. You’ll be prompted to accept the CMS terms of service, then shown a list of types of updates you’d like to receive. Select the MLN Connects option, and then submit your request.

You may view archived editions of the newsletter on the CMS website at https://go.cms.gov/2u6uJBP.

Are You Ready for MIPS?

MIPS provides strong incentives to physicians for participation in Medicare risk-sharing Alternative Payment Models (APMs). For physicians who choose not to become involved in APMs, they will be required to report and perform well on four categories – quality, advancing care information, improvement activities, and cost.

www.shineofmissouri.com/Member-Resources/Equip-for-MIPS

MSMA & MSMA Insurance Agency Create New Insurance Partnership

We are excited to announce that MSMA is partnering with Mylo (My Lockton) to provide MSMA members with a digital one-stop shop for home and auto insurance that may be able to save you time and money. Mylo is part of Kansas City based Lockton Companies, launched in 1966 and now the world’s largest independent insurance broker.

Mylo offers:
- An exclusive MSMA group discount
- Convenient shopping from multiple top-rated carriers
- A customized recommendation for your home or vehicle

Visit choosemylo.com/MSMA or call 844-208-4544.

For Paying Your MSMA Membership

Prior Authorization, Anti-Vaccination Issues, Prescription Drug Monitoring, Scope of Practice issues....the stakes have never been higher for physicians to let the MSMA speak for them.

You renewed your MSMA membership in 2019 because you understand that your voice and a large, committed membership base are necessary to successfully represent your patients and yourselves in the Capitol and the courts.

Get a colleague off the bench! If you know physicians who let you, the MSMA member, do the heavy lifting, get them on board with you! Go to https://www.msma.org/recruitment-tools.html to get information to help you recruit a colleague.
Ensure MSMA Has Your Email Address

If MSMA doesn’t have your email address, you may be missing out on member benefits, including the monthly Progress Notes newsletter and the weekly MSMA Legislative Report. Along with those important publications, MSMA sends announcements about pending legislation, issues impacting the medical profession, and upcoming MSMA events via email. If you haven’t received an email from MSMA lately, send your preferred email address to cwilliams@msma.org.

“I think it’s essential for early career physicians and residents who are training to be a physician to be involved in their state medical society because it helps connect them with the issues of the state, helps them network, helps them build relationships within their profession, and it helps them serve as a better citizen physician.”

- Joanne Loethen, MD
  Joined 2016

“MSMA provides a vehicle to capture your concerns, to combine them with other physicians with similar concerns and drive the policy position or policy question that can create change and create a different practice environment.”

- Sam Page, MD
  Joined 1989

“Supporting Missouri physicians and their patients.”

MSMA is your advocate.

www.msma.org/engage

Insurance
Addressing critical health insurance issues, including surprise billing, prior authorization reform, and reversing Anthem’s retroactive ER policy

Tort
Establishing a new cap on noneconomic damage awards, protecting the affidavit of merit law, and supporting physicians in courts

Opioids
Fighting for a comprehensive statewide PDMP, increasing available treatment options, and combating oppressive physician discipline

SHINE - HIE
Launching a physician-led HIE designed to improve patient care transitions and assisting physicians obtaining their MIPS bonus

Licensure
Ensuring that MOC can’t be used as a condition of licensure, and fighting mandatory CME requirements

“It’s a group of physicians who are able to network, bounce ideas off each other, and really come together to advocate for patients all across the state.”

- Jonathan Patterson, MD
  Joined 2011

www.msma.org/engage
Coverage for Affluent Homes

Experience the peace of mind that comes from working with an insurance professional who understands your unique needs.

MSMA Insurance cares for physicians and covers their personal and professional needs.

Contact Ronnie Suggs | 888-576-2467 | www.msma.biz | rsuggs@msma.biz

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

April 2  Tom Saak, MD - St. Louis
April 4  Greg Terpstra, DO - Potosi
April 10 Jennifer Conley, MD - Nevada
Michael Kortz - Student Shadow, KCUMB
April 11 Nikhat Salamat, MD - St. Louis
April 16 Joanne Loethen, MD - Kansas City
April 17 Gary Gaddis, MD - St. Louis
April 18 Sam Page, MD - St. Louis
April 24 Tamara Goldschmidt, MD - St. Louis
April 25 Louis DelCampo, MD - Springfield
April 30 Amanda Turner, MD - Nevada

Get involved as the Physician of the Day during the legislative session. Meet your local legislators and get introduced in the House or Senate chambers. All specialties are welcome and encouraged to serve!

SIGN UP!
www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day