

# Progress Notes

JUNE 2019

MSMA Reporting the Progress of Missouri's Medicine

[www.msma.org](http://www.msma.org)

*Hosted by MSMA & SLMMS*

## Medicine's Muscle: Physician Advocacy 2019

Learn advocacy techniques and hear all about the 2019 legislative session at MSMA's Advocacy event, co-sponsored with the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society on Wednesday, July 24, at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel in Concourse B from 6:00-8:00 pm, with buffet dinner. Registration begins at 5:00 pm. No charge for event/dinner.

Visit [www.msma.org/mmpac](http://www.msma.org/mmpac) to RSVP for event.



David Barbe, MD, addressed the Physician 2030 Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, in May, sponsored by the World Medical Association. Dr. Barbe, an MSMA member since 1985, Past MSMA President, and the Immediate Past President of AMA, focused on the ways the AMA is shaping the future physician practice environment and patient care as it relates to Augmented Intelligence and health information technology.

## Highlights of Legislative Session

While your MSMA advocacy team followed about 500 bills during the 2019 legislative session, here are some of the issues that received our attention. Watch for a full review later this summer or attend MSMA's Advocacy Briefing on July 24.

### Prior Authorization

SB 514: Prohibits insurers from revoking prior authorizations (PA) for 45 days, requires them to transition to electronic PA systems by 2021, and mandates them to post clinical criteria used in their PA decisions online for physicians and patients.

### MAT Treatment

HB 399: Allows for quicker access to life-saving medication-assisted treatment drugs for patients with substance abuse disorders. These drugs cannot be subject to PA or step therapy, and must be on the insurer's lowest cost-sharing tier.

### APRN Licensure

This failed bill would have granted APRNs a license under the Board of Nursing and would have defined and expanded APRN scope of practice, allowing a path to independent practice outside of a collaborative practice arrangement.

### Virtual Credit Cards

HB 399: Prohibits insurance companies from forcing physicians to accept a method of reimbursement that requires the physician to pay a transaction fee (such as a credit card).

### Maternal Mortality

HB 447: Establishes a board to review maternal mortality in Missouri and develop initiatives that support at-risk populations. Starting in 2020, the board will be required to develop an annual report and recommendations.



Thank you to our Delegates for representing Missouri at the American Medical Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. Your support for the medical profession and patients is appreciated! From left (front row): Charles Van Way III, MD; Warren Lovinger Jr., MD; James Conant, MD; and (back row) MSMA President James DiRenna, DO; Elie Azrak, MD; Edmond Cabbabe, MD; and MSMA Past President Joseph Corrado, MD.

## Medical Marijuana Regulations Published

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services very recently issued rules relating to the state's medical marijuana program. MSMA staff is currently reviewing the new regulations and will provide an update soon. You can find a number of medical marijuana resources at [www.msma.org/medical-marijuana](http://www.msma.org/medical-marijuana).



## Missouri Medicine Now Online [www.msma.org/missouri-medicine-library](http://www.msma.org/missouri-medicine-library)



- Impact of Marijuana Legalization
- Medical Illnesses Related to Cannabis Use
- FDA & Approval Process
- Copperhead Bites
- Physician Suicide
- Feature Series: Hyperbaric Oxygen Comprehensive Review



## MO HealthNet Covers Alternative Therapies For Chronic Pain



MO HealthNet recently issued a bulletin concerning coverage of complementary health and alternative therapies for chronic pain management.

For dates of service on or after April 1, 2019, MO HealthNet has announced coverage for a variety of alternative therapies in an attempt to decrease opioid prescriptions and prevent opioid misuse by patients. Such treatments include physical therapy, chiropractic therapy, acupuncture services, and cognitive-behavioral therapy for chronic pain. A MO HealthNet patient must first receive a diagnosis of chronic pain from their physician and must be granted a physician referral and pre-certification before alternative therapies can begin.

More information, including procedure codes and modifiers, can be found in the official press release: <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin41-55.pdf>.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

Jefferson City and Cole County, Missouri, were hit by multiple tornadoes May 22. The office and MSMA staff were spared, but it was a close call. We all recall Joplin eight years ago and have been planning for an emergency where medical personnel may be needed. If there is a disaster where physicians are needed, check our MSMA website and your email for a message about volunteer protocol. MSMA follows the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services lead during emergencies.

## Documentation Lost Due to Weather

MO HealthNet requests any provider who believes documentation in support of servicing Missouri Medicaid participants is no longer available due to recent weather events, complete the Attestation of Medical Record Loss or Destruction Form which can be found at <https://mmac.mo.gov/providers/provider-enrollment/new-providers/provider-enrollment-forms>.

## MSMA Joins Fund to Improve Health Information Exchange

Your MSMA, in association with five other state medical societies and The Physicians Foundation, announced the formation of the first of its kind \$500,000 interoperability fund, known as The Physicians Foundation Interoperability Fund, which will assist medical practices in effectively sharing clinical information with other physicians and hospitals through health information exchanges (HIE). Funding is available for physicians in participating states with an electronic health record system (EHR), and will be allocated to practices on a first-come basis.

Sharing timely clinical patient information among physicians and hospitals with disparate EHRs relies upon a connection to an HIE. Through The Physicians Foundation Interoperability Fund, HIE participants can access patient data regardless of where the patient received care. For more information, contact Patrick Mills at [pmills@msma.org](mailto:pmills@msma.org) or 800-869-6762.

## 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 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](http://choosemylo.com/MSMA) or call 844-208-4544.



## MSMA Reaching Out and Representing YOU!

Want MSMA to come to you? Email Haley Wansing at [hwansing@msma.org](mailto:hwansing@msma.org) or Stephen Foutes at [stephen@msma.org](mailto:stephen@msma.org) or call 800-869-6762.

### \$30,000 in MSMA Scholarships Awarded to Medical Students Ten medical students from Kansas City University's Joplin and Kansas City campuses each awarded \$3,000 MSMA Scholarships from the Missouri State Medical Foundation



KCU Joplin campus MSMA scholarship recipients: from left, Evan Rose, Mikayla Knaebel, Abigail Finder, and Nathan Rodriguez. Not pictured, Lukas Moore.



KCU Kansas City campus MSMA scholarship recipients: from left, Brett Thomas, Justin Sauter, Victoria Shaw, Connor Shaw, and Christian Casteel.

- MSMA Lobbyists Jeff Howell and Heidi Geisbuhler recapped the 2019 legislative session for members of Boone County Medical Society at their June meeting in Columbia. Geisbuhler gave an overview of MSMA's legislative wins, while Howell focused on the importance of physician advocacy.
- A resolution that established the MSMA Women Physicians Section (WPS) was approved at this year's MSMA Annual Convention in Kansas City. An organizational conference call for the WPS will be scheduled in the near future – all female MSMA members are welcome to take part. If you are interested in more information about the WPS, visit [www.msma.org/women-physicians-section](http://www.msma.org/women-physicians-section).
- Members of the Tri-County Medical Society met in Washington to hear an update on the 2019 Missouri legislative session from MSMA Lobbyist Heidi Geisbuhler. The meeting was held at the home of Les Tucker, MD, an MSMA member since 1982.
- St. Charles Lincoln County Medical Society held its monthly business meeting in St. Charles, and heard a presentation on investment strategies from representatives of Capital Markets IQ LLC and Safe Money Advisors LLC.
- Physicians, medical students, and Alliance members of Buchanan County Medical Society heard from Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Connelly on human trafficking, as well as an update from MSMA about advocacy and membership.
- Boone County Medical Society members heard a presentation and participated in a discussion about drug prices in the U.S. The presentation was given by **Steve Miller, MD**, Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer at Cigna Corporation. Dr. Miller, an MSMA member since 2011, included information about how much Americans spend on medications annually, prescription drugs that are in development, and emerging technologies.
- Members of the Northeast Missouri Medical Society heard a presentation on asthma and COPD research from Humam Farah, MD, in Hannibal. Dr. Farah, a pulmonologist, is a member of the society and an MSMA member since 2014.
- The following medical students recently graduated from a school of medicine in Missouri, and received the MSMA Honor Graduate Award:
  - A.T. Still University: Andrew Perry
  - Kansas City University: Alex Emory Cook and Kyra Leigh McCarty
  - Saint Louis University: Alexandria Gregory, Alice Marie Martino and Cathy R. Zhang
  - University of Missouri-Columbia: Meghna Srinath and Sonia Boodram
  - University of Missouri-Kansas City: Luke He, Jonah Graves and Haley Mayenkar
  - Washington University: Brian Cusworth



**Missouri State Medical Association**

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