MO HealthNet
Opioid Prescription
Denials on the Rise

Recent calls from member physicians expressing concerns over increased opioid prescription denials have prompted additional discussions between MSMA and the MO HealthNet Division (MHD). MHD has modified its system for allowing opioid prescriptions by requiring a chronic pain diagnosis to be documented every six months. The former requirement was two years.

MSMA physicians have been very helpful in providing specific instances of Medicaid patients being denied pain medications. During a call with MO HealthNet, Stephen Halpin, MD, (Hannibal), and Don James, DO, (Rolla), expressed concerns about inappropriate denials and lack of an alternative plan for patients who are denied pain medications. Drs. Halpin and James also expressed concern about mandatory opioid tapering plans. MO HealthNet staff indicated those no longer make sense. Instead physicians may be asked if tapering has been considered, but it will not be mandated.

A recent MHD policy bulletin moved the accumulated MME from 300 to 200 per day. This and MHD denials without a tapering plan will be discussed by your MSMA member contingent during the Opioid Provider Advisory Council (OPAC) this month. Until then, MSMA and MHD staff will have continued discussion of policy changes.

Your OPAC reps are: David Barbe, MD – Mountain Grove; Bridget Early MD – Columbia; Fola Fasuyi, MD – Rolla; Randy Haight, MD – Jefferson City; Stephen Halpin, MD – Hannibal; Alex Hover, MD – Springfield; Don James, DO – Rolla; Rob Kenney, MD – Warrensburg; Daniel Millsapugh, MD – Kansas City; Kyle Ostrom, MD – Washington; Naveed Razzaque, MD – St Louis; Evan Schwarz, MD – St Louis; and Matt Stinson, MD – Springfield. Please contact Patrick Mills (pmills@msma.org) if you have a specific MHD beneficiary opioid story to share.

MSMA would like to thank the dozens of physicians who lobbied their lawmakers on behalf of medicine on Tuesday, March 5, at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City. Visit our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages to like and share photos of physicians hard at work representing you and your patients. If you have any legislative questions, call 800-869-6762.
161st House of Delegates Proposed Resolutions
View full resolutions at www.msma.org/proposed-resolutions.html

Reference Committee A
Start Time: 10:00 am / Friday, April 5

Resolution #2
Addressing Healthcare Needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association encourage the American Medical Association to support screening to identify unmet needs of children with incarcerated parents and promote earlier intervention for those children who are at risk.

Resolution #3
Creation of a Women Physicians Section within the Missouri State Medical Association
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association create a Women Physicians Section (WPS); and be it further,
RESOLVED, that the Women Physicians Section serve to enhance leadership among Missouri’s women physicians, better engage women physicians in the MSMA, address issues unique to the practice of women physicians, and advocate on behalf of women’s health issues and the health of women physicians.

Resolution #4
Support for Bleeding Control Training and Supplies in Schools
RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association support legislation encouraging the training of high school students and teachers in life-saving bleeding control techniques.

Resolution #5
Supporting Common Sense Climate Change Legislation
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association release a formal statement endorsing that climate change is a real phenomenon with health consequences; and be it further
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association will advocate on behalf common sense policies to reduce carbon emissions, reduce environmental pollution, and improve the air/water quality of Missouri; and be it further
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association work with the Department of Insurance and payers in the state to ensure that generic medications to treat opioid use disorders are now, or will be reclassified, on the lowest cost-sharing tier of a health plan’s pharmacy benefit.

Resolution #6
The Study of Physician and Trainee Suicide Based on the Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Project
RESOLVED, that our MSMA work with relevant stake holders to create a data base of student, resident/fellow, and physician suicides using de-identified data to track statistics in regards to those who commit suicide and relevant factors surround their suicide including but not limited to: demographic information, resource availability at home institution, prior mental health interventions, co-morbid illness, work load, substance use, prior medical therapies, etc.; and be it further
RESOLVED, that our MSMA advocate to allow resident, fellow, and medical student members to serve on the Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Committee to aid/advise/participate in research and policy endeavors.

Resolution #7
AMA Delegate Term Limits
RESOLVED, that the MSMA Bylaws be amended to create term limits for delegates (not alternate delegates) of the Missouri AMA delegation; and be it further
RESOLVED, that if this amendment to the MSMA Bylaws is approved it will go into effect beginning with the MSMA Convention in 2021 with past service being counted when considering the 2021 Missouri AMA delegation composition; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the MSMA Bylaws, Chapter III. House of Delegates, Section 10 of said Bylaws include: “MSMA members may serve a maximum of eight years as an AMA Delegate; however, term limits are suspended while serving as a member of an AMA House of Delegates Council.”

Resolution #8
Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy
RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) take a position that tackle football should not be played before the age of high school; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the MSMA would support any legislation to this effect introduced in our state.

Resolution #9
Sexual Health Education in Missouri Public Schools
RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association will adopt policy congruent to the American Medical Association’s position, as stated in resolution H-170.9681, to oppose the sole use of abstinence only education and urge the implementation of age-appropriate, medically and factually accurate comprehensive health education that stresses the importance of abstinence in preventing unwanted teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, teaches contraceptive choices and safe sex, and integrates sexual violence prevention, including conversations about consent.

Reference Committee B
Start Time: 10:30 am / Friday, April 5

Resolution #10
Abolishing Prior Authorization Requirements for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association support legislation to abolish prior authorization requirements for FDA-approved generic medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association work with the Department of Insurance and payers in the state to ensure that generic medications to treat opioid use disorders are now, or will be reclassified, on the lowest cost-sharing tier of a health plan’s pharmacy benefit.

Resolution #11
Physicians Section (WPS); and be it further,
MSMA Reaching Out and Representing YOU!

Want MSMA to come to you? Email Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org or Stephen Foutes at stephen@msma.org or call 800-869-6762. Member names in bold.

Boone

MSMA President Joe Corrado, MD, installed the Boone County Medical Society officers for 2019 at its gala on Feb. 2 in Columbia. In top photo taking the oath of office, from left, are: Josh Hamann, MD, President; Alan Hillard, MD, President-elect; and board members John Pardalos, MD; Trey James, MD; Lisa Thomas, MD; and Albert Hsu, MD. Physicians who were unable to attend the ceremony but serve on the 2019 BCMS board include Laine Young-Walker, MD, BCMS Secretary/Treasurer; Amy Zguta, MD, and Kate Grossman, MD. Dr. Pardalos was honored with the BCMS Distinguished Physician Award for his work in reducing infant mortality in the Republic of Georgia. Robert Frazier, MD, was recognized with a certificate of achievement for his 50-year career as a physician. Frederick Fraunfelder, MD, was recognized for his service to the Society as the 2018 President. Former Executive Director Beverly Wilcox was honored for her nearly two decades of service to BCMS.

Saint Charles-Lincoln

The Saint Charles-Lincoln County Medical Society presented it’s thirteenth Doctor William Jones McElhiney Medical School Scholarship to Calli Morris, a third year medical student at the University of Missouri - Columbia, at its December meeting. Due to collections and investment through the MSMF, SCLCMS was able to increase this year’s presentation to $7,500, and grateful that Dr. Corrado and his wife, Donna, were present for the dinner meeting. See photo, second from top.

Greene

The Greene County Medical Society hosted its annual officer installation with a reception and dinner in February, with Dr. Corrado presenting an update on MSMA activities and swearing in the officers of the 2019 GCMS Executive Council. Matthew Stinson, MD, was presented with a plaque for his service this past year by Shannon Woods, MD, GCMS President.

Buchanan

James B. Reynolds, MD, FAPA, Certified Forensic Examiner, Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Director at Northwest Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center, addressed members of Buchanan County Medical Society on March 6 regarding, “The New Medical Marijuana Law.”

Incoming Saint Charles-Lincoln County Medical Society President Tom Tyree, MD, (left), thanks Brian Andrews, MD, for serving as president.

West Central

Members of West Central Medical Society had an informative meeting in February with Missouri District 126 Representative Patricia Pike and a discussion on Missouri legislature.

Learn More!

Learn more about your physician peers around Missouri by visiting our www.msma.org/engage or our YouTube channel and watching their stories. Go to https://bit.ly/2N0agKd.
Ten Things You Can Do to Get Involved That Don’t Require Money

by Jonathan Patterson, MD

As a first-year legislator I’m learning quickly about how things get done in Jefferson City. It’s not complicated. It is 197 elected members who are trying to learn about all the issues that are put before them and then vote in a way that would best serve their constituents. There’s no way to know everything about every one of the thousand bills that are filed every year. That is why advocacy matters. Ten people emailing their representative about a specific issue might be the only thing she hears about on that particular subject. Physicians need to advocate for medicine in Missouri. Here are ten easy ways to get politically involved:

1. Look up your legislators at www.house.mo.gov and www.senate.mo.gov. Know their names. Write down their email addresses. Write down their phone numbers.
2. Email your representative about an issue that you care about. Write your phone number and address on the email so that they know you are a constituent. They should at least read and respond to your email.
3. Meet your representative back in your district. Go to one of their town halls. Call them and ask them to come speak to a group of doctors at your office or hospital. Build a relationship with your state legislators. Politicians are human. This doesn’t mean you have to become hunting buddies. Just don’t have the first time you meet your legislator be the time you call her to encourage her to vote one way on a certain bill.
4. Sign up to be MSMA Physician of the Day at the Capitol. Both your representative and senator will go out of their way to meet with you. You’ll be introduced and thanked on both the House and Senate floor. You’ll be providing a public service. There will be little to no actual doctoring required.
5. Take time to learn about issues that affect physicians in Missouri. Read the weekly update emails from MSMA. Read the brief bill summaries online. All the bills have one page summaries that are written in non-legalese and posted on the House and Senate websites.
6. Go to your legislator’s official website and sign up for their Capitol reports. They’ll email you every week about the issues that they are working on.
7. Get upset sometimes. It’s okay to disagree. If you strongly disagree with your representative about an important issue, let them know. Respectfully tell them you’re a constituent and you disagree with them, and tell them why. They are paid to represent you. It’s part of the job to hear from their voters.
8. Take time to write your legislator thanking them for a vote you agree with. Legislators receive dozens of emails and letters a week, mostly from constituents that are unhappy with their vote. Be the bright spot in their day.
9. Get your colleagues involved. Talk with people in your specialty about issues that affect you directly. If it’s a really important issue get a group of you together for coffee and invite your representative.
10. Join your local medical society. They have people who are tied in politically and will get you more involved if you want.

This year the House once again passed a prescription drug monitoring (PDMP) bill. We voted on it once and then left for the weekend. By the next week when it was time to finally vote on the bill and send it over to the senate, eight members had changed their “yes” vote to a “no”. Why? Because over the weekend they received emails from some constituents telling them they disagreed with their vote. Political advocacy matters. It’s not hard. Get involved.

While there are plenty of interesting bills to keep an eye on throughout the legislative session, MSMA’s lobbying team has identified a handful that are of particular interest to our members who specialize in dermatology: HB 383, HB 518, and SB 419. HB 383 would allow children to bring sunscreen to school and apply it without requiring a note from a physician. Sunscreen use is especially important for full day outdoor school field trips, field days, and other similar events where reapplication is necessary. Dermatologists testified during this bill’s hearing that the majority of severe sunburns occur during childhood, so this is a crucial time to ensure that children have adequate protection to prevent their risk of skin cancer later in life.

HB 518 and SB 419 would both prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from using a tanning bed or other tanning device, regardless of parental permission. The bills would also require that a trained operator be present to assist customers at all times, that customers use protective eyewear, and that each tanning bed or device can be turned off by the customer while in use. The provisions do include an allowance for phototherapy devices prescribed by a doctor to diagnose or treat a disease or injury.

MSMA has already joined the American Cancer Society and the Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to support HB 383 (sunscreen in schools), and we plan to support HB 518/SB 419 (tanning bed ban for minors) when those bills are heard in committee as well.
March 2019

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

• March 5 – George Hruza, MD – Chesterfield
• March 6 – Donna Holzum, MD – St. Louis
• March 7 – Brian McKenna, MD – St. Louis
• March 13 – Charles Van Way, MD – Kansas City
• March 26 – Keith Wickenhauser, MD – St. Peters
• March 27 – Louis Krenn, MD – Springfield
• March 28 – Donald Potts, MD – Independence

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. It’s a great experience and a great service. All specialties are welcome and encouraged to serve! A few dates remain in this session.

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

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