November Ballot Issues:

**MSMA Opposes “Medical” Marijuana**

Your Missouri State Medical Association is concerned the three “medical” marijuana ballot questions being offered to Missouri voters in November are not supported by science.

MSMA acknowledges there are a limited number of patients who may receive limited relief from minor pain and nausea, but numerous studies have identified negative health effects for a large number of diagnoses. Until the DEA reclassifies marijuana to allow extensive scientific research, MSMA remains concerned Missourians will be gambling with their health using an unregulated drug.

Read the ballot questions, MSMA’s full statement, MSMA and AMA marijuana/cannabis policies, and articles on medical marijuana from *Missouri Medicine* at www.msma.org/medical-marijuana.

**Changes in Controlled Substance Reporting**

Several bills from the 2018 legislative session that were signed by the Governor went into effect on August 28, 2018. One deals with reporting of children who may have been exposed to controlled substances.

Current law asks physicians to notify the Department of Health and Senior Services if they identified an infant as being affected by substance abuse. The new law changes this reporting requirement slightly. Physicians (and other health care providers) should now refer the family of a child who may have been exposed to a controlled substance to the Children’s Division within the Department of Social Services.

Children’s Division resources and contact information are at www.dss.mo.gov/cd/.

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**Missouri Medicine Accepted into PubMed, PubMed Central**

*Missouri Medicine: The Journal of the Missouri State Medical Association,* is pleased to announce that after a thorough review, PubMed, the indexing service of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), will continue to index our Journal.

PubMed has indexed *Missouri Medicine* since 1966. New technical requirements regarding uploading content in an XML format have been attained by using the services of Digital Conversion Labs.

After a separate review, PubMed Central, a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the NLM/NIH has also approved *Missouri Medicine* for inclusion. *Missouri Medicine* will upload all previous (digital-only) issues dating from 2010. These new and updated services are critical to our Journal to remain one of the foremost state medical journals in the United States, and to be certain all content is available at all world data bases and literature electronic literature searches.

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**Don’t Miss MIPS Compliance – It’s a BIG Deal**

Let SHINE be your “one stop shop” for everything MIPS. Whether you need a qualified clinical data registry for data submission, or if you would like hands-on technical support to guide you through MIPS, SHINE can assist.

Contact Jonathan Smith at 816-492-8398 or jsmith@shineofmissouri.com for more information.

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**Renew Your Membership**

Start the fall season by renewing your MSMA membership for 2019. Watch your mailboxes and email to ensure you don’t miss out on important member benefits, including legislative support, member advocacy, and communication services.

Paying your MSMA dues on time saves your dues dollars for Association programs. If you have questions about your membership invoice, contact the MSMA membership division at 800-869-6762 or email cwilliams@msma.org.
MO HealthNet Fee Increases - Watch for Rate Adjustments

As many of our MSMA members may already be aware, the MO HealthNet Division fee-for-service maximum allowable rates for certain procedures in the Physician Program have been increased. This change applies to services provided on or after July 1, 2018. Under the new change, the MO HealthNet Division will reimburse the lesser of either the provider’s usual and customary billed charge or the maximum allowable amount of the date of service billed. Providers may not bill MHD at a higher rate than they charge their private pay patients.

The MO HealthNet Division said they will reprocess claims paid for dates of service on or after July 1. We ask that you please keep an eye on your future remittance advice statements for rate adjustments.

Part D Enrollment is Beginning

Here’s a reminder that Medicare Part D enrollment season is almost here. While you are not obligated to do anything if already enrolled, it’s always a good idea to check the marketplace. Plans change every year and your patients could be paying more than needed.

Patients may call CLAIM at 800-390-3330 for a free evaluation of plans.

Revised ICD-10 Training Course Available - Find the Correct Codes

The Medicare Learning Network has developed a training course entitled “Diagnosis Coding: Using the ICD-10-CM Web-Based Training Course - Revised.” In this training you will learn about the structure, format and features; how to find correct codes, and ICD-10-CM/PCS coding tips, information and resources. Continuing Education Credit is available.

To view this or other courses, go to the Medicare Learning Network, Learning Management System at https://learner.mlnms.com.

MSMA Collaborates with AMA

Your Missouri State Medical Association is frequently asked to join AMA, along with other state and specialty societies, in signing letters to CMS and other federal agencies. Recently, MSMA has supported AMA’s recommendation to study and re-evaluate the CMS proposal to collapse the E/M visit codes from five levels to two. MSMA has also signed onto a letter to the DEA regarding partial filling of Schedule II controlled substances and the electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS). Currently, 70% of physicians use electronic prescribing of non-controlled substances, but only 20% use EPCS.

Reference Committee Online Forums Are Open for AMA Interim Meeting - Give Feedback

AMA members can take advantage of online forums for input into Reference Committee issues for the AMA Interim Meeting, Nov. 10-13, National Harbor, Maryland. Items of business are included in the online member forums for each of the five Reference Committees unless recommended against consideration by the Committee.

Members should take advantage of this opportunity, as Reference Committees at the Interim Meeting take place concurrently. Visit https://www.ama-assn.org/forums/house-delegates.

Reducing the Risk of Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has been identified as the second leading cause of lung cancer, therefore it is important for health care providers to educate their patients about radon and encourage radon testing in their homes.


Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal Saturday, October 27, 10 am-2 pm. Visit https://takebackday.dea.gov to find a location near you.
Around the State: Membership & Meetings
Contact Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org or Stephen Foutes at stephen@msma.org / Member names in bold

St. Charles/Lincoln
Physicians from the St. Charles area attended a CME event, “Quality Matters: The New Data Dilemma” on Aug. 27. The event was hosted by the St. Charles/Lincoln County Medical Society. Jonathan Smith, Regional Manager of SHINE of Missouri, led the presentation.

Boone
Members of the Boone County Medical Society met at Provision Living at Columbia, where CME presentations focused on Alzheimer’s disease and dementia on Sept. 4. Speakers included Adrienne Holden from the Greater Missouri Chapter of Alzheimer’s Association, and Gregory Day, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Staff from Provision Living, including Community Resource Manager Denise Falco, then led attendees through virtual dementia training. The training required participants to wear special footwear, headphones, and glasses designed to demonstrate how people with dementia and Alzheimer’s see the world around them and function when facing everyday tasks.

West Central
Members of West Central Medical Society enjoyed hearing from MSMA President Joseph Corrado, MD, and his wife Donna Corrado, who spoke to the MSMA Alliance on Aug. 16 in Nevada, Mo.

Medical Student Section
Student recruitment events were held around the state in August and September. Officers of the medical student sections signed up first-year students as members of MSMA, with the help of MSMA leadership and staff.

White Coat Ceremonies
MSMA President Joseph Corrado, MD, (top) and President-Elect James DiRenna, DO, (below) had the honor of participating in White Coat Ceremonies at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Joplin and Kansas City.

www.msma.org/engage
COMING SOON!
2019 Physician of the Day

Join MSMA in the Missouri State Capitol!
Every legislative session, beginning in early January and ending in mid-May, many MSMA members generously volunteer a day of their time to serve as the Physician of the Day at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. The Physician of the Day spends a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during the legislative session in the Capitol as an on-call physician in case legislators or legislative staff have a medical concern. Legislators and staff are very thankful for this program, and it’s a great opportunity for you to meet and talk with your local legislators.

We know your schedules can become full weeks and even months in advance, so we offer a convenient online scheduling tool on the MSMA website: www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day. It’s never too early to sign up to volunteer during next year’s legislative session.

Come spend a day in Jefferson City with us!