

## Medical Society of Delaware Major Accomplishments – 2019

### *“Why Membership Matters”*

#### **RANKED 2ND IN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES**

MSD ranked second in lobbying activities in 2019, weighing in on proposals 221 times. MSD is fortunate to have informed, effective, and eloquent physicians on the front lines donating their time to engage on critical issues affecting health care.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT THERAPY**

MSD advocated for and helped pass the nation's **first legislation** that gives patients consistency in treatment options between insurers, requiring that no treatments may be denied on the basis of being “experimental” if Medicare covers it.

#### **STATE INFRASTRUCTURE: PRIMARY CARE**

In 2018, MSD spearheaded legislation to save independent primary care in Delaware. In 2019, MSD led follow up legislation which created enforcement mechanisms within the Department of Insurance through the new Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery. Together, with the efforts of the Primary Care Collaborative, insurance and health care experts will work side by side to improve care and cost in Delaware through robust access to primary care.

#### **RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

MSD joined six neighboring state medical societies in opposition to the legalization of marijuana and recommended changing marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule II drug to facilitate needed research. MSD continues to work with law enforcement, health care allies, and addiction advocates in this ongoing debate.

#### **SURPRISE BILLING (FEDERAL)**

MSD hosted a Roundtable Discussion with Senator Carper regarding “surprise billing” on a federal level. MSD supports the American Medical Association in its efforts to reach leaders in Congress to ensure protections for patient and health care professionals.

#### **PRISON HEALTH**

MSD's Prison Health Care Committee is influencing important changes to help inmates upon release. Currently, Medicaid benefits terminate upon incarceration. The Committee was instrumental in convening representatives from the Department of Corrections, Delaware Health and Social Services, and Medicaid with the goal of changing the current system. Legislation is pending that would temporarily suspended Medicaid upon incarceration and reinstate it upon release, eliminating interruption of health care services.

#### **STEP THERAPY (“FAIL FIRST”)**

As part of ongoing prior authorization reform, MSD partnered with the State Access to Innovative Medicines (SAIM) Coalition to pass step therapy reform (SS1 to HB 105). Step therapy, or “fail first,” leaves many patients with specialized needs, without access to the medications their physician prescribes. Previously there was not an evidence-based pathway for physicians to advocate for their patient's care with insurance companies. This legislation creates a standardized method to help patients either start or maintain a course of treatment across payers.

#### **MEDICAL RECORDS GUIDANCE**

The MSD Medico-Legal Affairs Committee, in coordination with the Delaware Bar Association, prepared revised guidelines for medical records copying and requests, seeking to ease a friction point between the two professions.

#### **OBVIOUS CAMPAIGN & SCHOOL HEALTH**

MSD's School Health Subcommittee, including the Campaign for Kids... “It's OBVIOUS” initiative, made a significant impact this year, planning several informative, sold-out presentations and successfully completing the acclaimed Healthy Living Week program in November, where physicians gave presentations to 16 schools in 7 school districts to 7th grade students.