



Medical Society of Delaware

Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

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Reminders

REGISTER FOR MSD ANNUAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

November 9th - 11th. This year's education program will focus on Navigating Technology in the Medical Practice. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/2bc7c35h>

2021 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2021 HIPAA, mandatory OSHA, & BLS training scheduled with MSD Compliance Coordinator Dwayne Downs at 302-366-1023.

MSD IS ON FACEBOOK

"Like" the Medical Society of Delaware Facebook page for informative posts, pictures and events. Like & Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/> or [@medicalsocietyofdelaware](https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/) and turn on your notifications.

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Use of Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration took action to expand the use of a booster dose for COVID-19 vaccines in eligible populations. The agency is amending the emergency use authorizations (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for the use of a single booster dose. For more information and to see who is eligible please visit <https://tinyurl.com/6a9ukkzk>. Late Thursday evening the CDC endorsed the Moderna and J&J boosters, as well as a "mix and match" approach for shots.

Biden Administration Unveils Vaccine Plans for 5-11 Year Olds

In anticipation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) independent advisory committee meeting on October 26 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) independent advisory committee meeting on November 2-3 (and CDC Director's approval), the Biden Administration announced a plan to ensure that, if a vaccine is authorized for children ages 5-11, it is quickly distributed and made conveniently and equitably available. The start of a vaccination program for children ages 5-11 will depend on the independent FDA and CDC process and timeline. The Administration's plan will mobilize a comprehensive effort across the public and private sectors to ensure that we have the supply, the sites, and the support needed to get our nation's children vaccinated and protected against the virus. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/frb6pae2>.

Medicare's Perfect Storm

On January 1, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will drastically reduce payments (<https://tinyurl.com/5m5mtb6h>) for certain health care providers. If Congress does not act to stop these cuts, it will further strain practices that are still struggling to keep their doors open during the ongoing pandemic. Physician practices face a stack of Medicare financial hits amounting to a 9.75 percent cut. Recently, Reps. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter highlighting the financial uncertainty within the Medicare payment system and the dangers facing the physician community if Congress fails to enact legislation to address these problems. Please contact our Delaware Senators and Representative to tell them to cancel the cuts! <https://tinyurl.com/zpnwph9a>.

Mental Health Free Virtual Event

Join MSD, the OBVIOUS Campaign for Kids Initiative, Nami Delaware, Nemours and the Life Health Center, for a Mental Health Virtual Event for school-aged children K-12 on **November 16th at 6:00 pm**. Hear presentations by special guest speakers, Anne Slease, M.Ed; Norwood Coleman, Jr., LCSW-S, ACSW; Meghan Tuohy Walls, PsyD; and Vanessa Patel, MD. This free event is open to all allied health professionals and the general public. Registration is free and required to attend. To register visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/MentalHealthAwareness>.

Practice Management and Education Session COVID-19: What Happens Next: "Second Order" Threats

Please join us for the next Practice Management and Education Session (virtual), presented by CURI, on **Thursday, November 18 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm**. This session will provide an overview and details about the current COVID-19 climate, including current standings of vaccine distribution, which regulatory changes should continue to be monitored, COVID-19's lasting impact on independent practices, and more. To register for this virtual event please visit <https://reg.planetreg.com/COVID-19Webinar>.

Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing Effective October 24

Delawareans with (302) phone numbers will need to dial 10 digits to others in the 302 area code starting October 24th. The change to 10-digit dialing not only affects Delaware but also 16 states and territories and 84 area codes. The reason for the switch is to start 988 as a new national suicide hotline number. The National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline remains at (800) 273-TALK until it moves to 988 on July 16, 2022. Local calls dialed with only seven digits beginning on October 24 may not be completed. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/mna74a72>.

Prior Authorization Reform Bill Introduced in The Senate

The Senate introduced an MGMA-supported bill which would deliver much-needed reform to prior authorization under the Medicare Advantage program. The bipartisan Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 (S. 3018) is the companion bill to the House legislation introduced earlier this year. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/5b6e5674>.