



Medical Society of Delaware

Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

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In This Issue

- OSHA Suspends enforcement of Large Employer Vaccine Rule
- Transparency & Oversight of Prescription Drugs & Medical Costs
- CMS Revises COVID-19 Nursing Home Visitation
- Renal Rounds – Lecture Series
- MSD 2022 Membership Renewal Period Begins
- MSD and Food Bank of Delaware Join Together for Virtual Food Drive

Reminders

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 and turn on your notifications.

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OSHA Suspends Enforcement of Large Employer Vaccine Rule

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) establishing minimum COVID-19 "vaccine or test" requirements for private employers with 100 or more employees. Shortly after OSHA announced the ETS, several states, businesses, religious groups and individuals filed legal challenges to the standard. On November 6, 2021, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a preliminary ruling staying implementation of the ETS, pending further briefing in the court. Following that briefing, on November 12, 2021, the Fifth Circuit issued an order staying enforcement and implementation of the ETS. In recognition of the court's decision, the Biden administration announced that OSHA has suspended all activities relating to the implementation and enforcement of the ETS pending further litigation. However, the legality of the ETS is expected to be further litigated, likely with the Supreme Court making a final decision. Keep in mind that the Fifth Circuit's ruling has no effect on vaccine mandates applying in healthcare settings or to federal contractors and subcontractors. For more information visit <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>.

Transparency & Oversight of Prescription Drugs & Medical Costs

The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring health insurance issuers, employer-based health plans, and other group health plans to report on prescription drug and health coverage costs. The requirement was implemented through an interim final rule with request for comments issued by the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, the Treasury (collectively, the Departments), and the Office of Personnel Management. This rule is the fourth rule in a series that the Departments are issuing to implement the No Surprises Act and transparency requirements of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2021. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/wx3ffyfs>.

CMS Revises COVID-19 Nursing Home Visitation

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) issued new guidance for visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 public health emergency, allowing visitation for all residents at all times. Together with infection prevention safeguards, including the recent staff vaccination regulation this guidance will promote resident health and ensure continued safety as facilities continue to open. Residents, families, and facility staff are urged, however, to keep vigilance on outbreaks. Facilities will no longer be able to limit the frequency and length of visits or require advance scheduling. Although large groups of visitors are discouraged, nursing homes are not allowed to limit the number of friends and family who can visit a resident. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/hhcca3te>.

Renal Rounds – Lecture Series

The National Kidney Foundation Serving Maryland and Delaware is pleased to invite you to attend the Renal Rounds Lecture Series for an evening of lively discussion on **December 9th at 7 p.m.** This virtual professional education event, "New Equations for Estimating GFR Without Race: Development & Task Force Recommendations," will feature Dr. Deidra Crews and Dr. Josef Coresh from Johns Hopkins on the work that has been done by the American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation to remove race from the eGFR equations. This will be an excellent lecture to build knowledge on the issue of race correction and support the work that is being done in this regard at Delaware institutions. There is no charge for registration. To register visit <https://tinyurl.com/4yc3t7pf>.

MSD 2022 Membership Renewal Period Begins

The 2022 membership renewals are being prepared for all current members. We are pleased to inform you that 2022 membership renewal rates have remained the same with no increase. MSD has worked hard on your behalf and has expanded its reach to include environmental health issues, as well as to begin working on diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and throughout the health care system. Your 2022 membership renewal can be completed by logging into the MSD website or by mail. All 2022 membership renewals are due by January 1, 2022. Please contact MSD Membership Manager Michelle Seymour with any questions at (302) 224-4905 or Michelle.Seymour@medsocdel.org.

MSD and Food Bank of Delaware Join Together for Virtual Food Drive

This holiday season, give the hope of a holiday meal. People in Delaware continue to struggle and food banks are in need of help to fill their shelves. With your donation or contribution, you can help provide three meals for every dollar given. From **November 8 through December 17**, reach out and make an impact in the Delaware community. To donate visit <https://tinyurl.com/44n6j7sm>.