



Medical Society of Delaware

Practice Matters

Keeping Your Practice Informed Through Weekly Broadcast Fax

September 23, 2022

Volume 10, Number 36

In This Issue

- MSD Receives Unprecedented Grant to Assist Primary Care Practices
- CDC Health Advisory
- Let's Fix the Prior Authorization Burden
- Virtual Practice Management & Education Session: Cyber Security & HIPAA
- (ONC) Rules on Information Blocking
- Highmark BCBS Delaware Virtual Town Hall

Reminders

2022 HIPAA/OSHA/BLS TRAINING

Get your 2022 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. <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalSocietyofDelaware/> or @medicalsocietyofdelaware

MSD MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE

Please change your records to our new mailing address effective immediately: Medical Society of Delaware PO Box 8155 Newark, DE 19714.

Contact MSD

302-366-1400
MedicalSocietyofDelaware.org
To unsubscribe contact
Kristie Stewart at
302-224-5196
Kristie.Stewart@medsocdel.org

Copyright 2022. All rights reserved.

MSD Receives Unprecedented Grant to Assist Primary Care Practices

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware's BluePrints for the Community has awarded an initial \$1million grant to the Medical Society of Delaware's Foundation, the Delaware Medical Education Foundation (DMEF) for a Primary Care Investment Initiative (PCII). "Investing in Delaware's health workforce has long been a priority of BluePrints for the Community" said Nick Moriello, President of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware. "We are proud to support the Delaware Medical Education Foundation's efforts to provide primary care providers with resources to improve sustainability, efficiency and ultimately health outcomes" The PCII intends to target independent primary care practices whose physicians are also active members of the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD). For full details and link to the Grant Application <https://tinyurl.com/Highmark-Grant>.

CDC Health Advisory

Health care professionals and hospitals in several regions of the United States notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during August 2022 about increases in pediatric hospitalizations in patients with severe respiratory illness who also tested positive for rhinovirus (RV) and/or enterovirus (EV). RVs and EVs can have clinically similar presentations and are indistinguishable from one another on multiplex assays often used in clinical settings. Upon further typing, some specimens have been positive for enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). Concurrently, pediatric acute respiratory illness sentinel surveillance sites are reporting a higher proportion of EV-D68 positivity in children who are RV/EV positive compared to previous years. Although it primarily causes acute respiratory illness, EV-D68 has been associated with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a rare but serious neurologic complication involving limb weakness. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/3b4y35ms>.

Let's Fix the Prior Authorization Burden

Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed key legislation that would require Medicare Advantage insurers to use electronic prior authorization programs, annually submit lists of items and services subject to prior authorization and adopt beneficiary protection standards reforms to ease physician burden. Thanks to the actions of advocates like you, the "Improving Seniors' Access to Timely Care Act" was passed by a voice vote! Physicians complete an average of 41 prior authorizations per week. This unnecessary burden amounts to roughly 13 hours weekly that physicians and their staff must spend on administrative work instead of seeing and treating patients. There are only a handful of legislative days left this year for the Senate to get this legislation over the finish line, please join in the fight to get our health care system back on track by fixing the broken prior authorization system. Please contact your Senators today (<https://tinyurl.com/5n94e968>) and urge them to cosponsor the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act! For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/3rxas95n>.

Virtual Practice Management & Education Session: Cyber Security & HIPAA

Save the date for the next Virtual Practice Management & Education Session on October 21, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 pm. This session will be presented by Sharon Ruth, USI, Healthcare Client Advocate, MSDIS and Dwayne Downs, MSD, Training & Compliance Coordinator. This session will provide information on Cyber Security and HIPAA. Registration soon to come!

(ONC) Rules on Information Blocking

In April 2021, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's (ONC) rules on information blocking went into effect. Information blocking is defined as practices that are likely to interfere with, prevent, or materially discourage the access, exchange, or use of electronic health information (EHI). Physicians, hospitals, electronic health record vendors, health information exchanges, and health information networks (also known as "Actors"), are all subject to ONC's regulations. Since April 2021, information blocking requirements have been focused on a narrow subset all EHI. However, starting **October 6, 2022**, ONC's information blocking requirements shift to the entire set of EHI. After October 6, physicians and other Actors will be responsible for the access, exchange, or use of the full EHI requirement. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/53f6vcxt>.

Highmark BCBS Delaware Virtual Town Hall

Highmark has now been awarded the exclusive contract for the State of Delaware retired employee population, effective January 1, 2023. Highmark has scheduled a virtual Town Hall information meeting on October 5, 2022, at 12:00pm. To join the meeting on your computer, mobile app or room device visit <https://tinyurl.com/3yuf2n3f>. Meeting ID: 289091000242, Meeting passcode: Wna8jX.