HR Update: We Weathered the Storm – Now What for Practices?

Please join us for the next Practice Management & Leadership Education session, entitled HR Update: We Weathered the Storm – Now What for Practices? On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00 pm. This is a live virtual event. This session, presented by Linda Pappajohn, Director of HR Consulting Services, will cover important topics to include: New state and federal employment regulations, Employee Handbook update, Interview ‘ghosting’, Work habit changes post-COVID, Using Gender Pronouns in Workplace Communications, DE’s new Healthy Families Act, Paid Leave Laws, Work place concerns and much more. To register visit https://reg.planetreg.com/HRUpdate23.

Government Affairs Cmte. Chair Testifies on SS1 to SB 8

On May 17, 2023, Steven R. Chmielewski, MD, Chair of MSD’s Government Affairs Committee, testified before the Senate Banking, Business, Insurance & Technology Committee on MSD’s opposition to SS1 to SB8: https://tinyurl.com/phphc5ve. AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 6 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO MEDICAL DEBT. Read Dr. Chmielewski’s written testimony: https://tinyurl.com/5ccdu8x6. Even though the bill was released from Committee, the primary sponsor, Senator Spiros Mantzavino, has agreed to pull the bill at this time due in large part to strong opposition led by MSD. This will be an ongoing effort and we will keep our membership informed of future developments. For further information on the status of this bill, contact Lincoln Willis at Lincoln.Willis@thewillisgroup.com or Mark Thompson at Mark.Thompson@medsocdel.org or 302-559-1134.

MSD President Testifies on HB 140

House Bill 140 is similar to legislation that has been introduced and debated in previous sessions. Sponsored by Rep. Paul Baumbach, the bill permits a terminally ill adult Delaware resident to request and self-administer medication to end their life. A lengthy debate on medical aid in dying took place on Tuesday in the House Health & Human Development Committee. MSD President, Robert J. Varipapa, MD, testified on behalf of MSD. MSD has a position of engaged neutrality (https://tinyurl.com/2p93fhf3) on medical aid in dying. Read Dr. Varipapa’s written testimony (https://tinyurl.com/3xd766mx). The bill has been voted out of Committee and has been placed on the ready list.

"Cover All Delaware Children Act"

Sponsored by Rep. Krista Griffith, House Bill 150 would help Delaware children who are undocumented and do not have access to routine or preventive health care, including vaccinations and physicals, because they cannot afford the services. The bill would have the Department of Health and Social Services develop and operate a limited medical assistance program for children in Delaware who are not otherwise covered. The bill was reported out of the House Health and Human Development Committee and placed on the ready list. For more information visit https://tinyurl.com/26axnmkr.

Potential Risk for New Mpox Cases

In the United States, cases of mpox (formerly monkeypox) have declined since peaking in August 2022, however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to receive reports of cases that reflect ongoing community transmission in the United States and internationally. This week, CDC and local partners are investigating a cluster of mpox cases in the Chicago area. From April 17 to May 5, 2023, a total of 12 confirmed and one probable case of mpox were reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health. All cases were among symptomatic men. None of the patients have been hospitalized. For more information visit https://tinyurl.com/2z5n2yak.

Outbreak of Suspected Fungal Meningitis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Health Alert Network Health Advisory about an outbreak of suspected fungal meningitis among U.S. patients hospitalized in Texas after undergoing cosmetic procedures under epidural anesthesia in the city of Matamoros, state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is currently unknown which organism(s) is causing the outbreak. As of May 12, 2023, five patients have been diagnosed with suspected fungal meningitis; all have been hospitalized, and one has died. For more information visit https://tinyurl.com/bd77mpzz.