

# MSMS Medigram



Valuable insights on ACOs



e-News for Friday, March 22, 2013

## Prior Auth Bills Move; Expansion & Exchange Linger

The legislature was busy this week moving budget bills, several health policy issues, and other measures before adjourning for its two-week spring break. The House and Senate each passed their Universal Prior Authorization bill packages (HB 4274 and 4275, SB 178 and 179, respectively).

Medicaid expansion hit a snag when the House Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee removed it from the MDCH budget bill it passed on Tuesday.

The Senate failed to act this week on a measure to fund the health insurance exchange, which leaves questions about whether a state-federal exchange is still possible or if Michigan must be part of a federally-run exchange.

Also, the Senate Committee passed SB 136, which would allow for a conscientious objection to providing certain treatments based on a moral or religious objection by the physician. MSMS continues to express specific concerns regarding this legislation as being unnecessary, and is working with the legislature to address these concerns.

[Get the scoop in our Legislative Blog>>](#)

## MSMS Puts Kids First by Supporting Bills Banning Minors from Tanning Facilities



(l to r) Ms. Goulet, Doctor Watnick, and

Yesterday, MSMS hosted a news conference to emphasize the importance of passing bills that would ban minors from tanning facilities. Speakers included Michigan Dermatological Society Immediate Past President & MSMS member Kay Watnick, MD, Oakland

## Upcoming Events

The Weight of the State  
May 8  
The Inn at St. John's - Plymouth

This important conference will provide essential educational opportunities for health care professionals on advances in prevention strategies, treatment approaches, and health consequences of obesity.

[Register Now >>](#)

Spring Scientific Meeting  
May 16 & 17  
Somerset Inn - Troy

Smaller and shorter version of the popular fall Scientific Meeting, featuring clinical education.

[Register Now >>](#)

[More Events >>](#)

Rep. Townsend County; Anne Goulet, Doctor Watnick's patient who was diagnosed with skin cancer at age 19; and Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak), who sponsored HB 4404 and 4405.

"Using a tanning bed is particularly dangerous for younger users. We have a responsibility to protect our children and we encourage lawmakers to pass these potentially life-saving reforms as soon as possible," said Doctor Watnick.

[More>>](#)

News coverage:

- [Indoor tanning beds would be off limits for minors under Michigan proposal](#) (MLive)
- [Bill to Ban Indoor Tanning for Minors](#) (Lansing WILX)
- [Bill Introduced to Ban Minors From Tanning Salons](#) (Lansing WLNS)
- [Michigan bill could ban minors from using tanning beds](#) (ClickOnDetroit)
- [Lawmaker wants ban on indoor tanning by youth under 18](#) (Royal Oak Tribune)

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## Blue Cross Mutualization Bills Become Law

On Monday, Gov. Rick Snyder signed the Blue Cross mutualization bills (SB 61 and 62) into law at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan headquarters in Detroit. Senate Bill 61 allows Blue Cross to become a nonprofit mutual insurance company if the company chooses to, and Senate Bill 62 amends the state insurance code to reflect the changes. [More>>](#)

MSMS legal counsel Patrick J. Haddad, JD, has authored a detailed explanation of the new law in the latest Michigan Medicine, and how it compares to the current PA 350. "Under the new law, BCBSM will be required to continue offering health care benefits to all Michigan residents, regardless of health status, until January 1, 2014. It will continue its role as 'insurer of last resort' until federal health care reform measures take effect at that time, arguably rendering this mission obsolete," he writes.

Watch for *Michigan Medicine* in the coming weeks.

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## State Starts Taking Applications for Loan Repayment in April

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The Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) provides loan repayment assistance to medical, dental, and mental health care providers who enter into MSLRP service obligations. These service obligations require participants to provide full-time primary health care services to ambulatory populations at eligible, not-for-profit practice sites located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for a period of two years.

The MSLRP Program Opportunity Update includes more details:

- New Application Period: April 1 to June 30
- Contribution requirement remains at 20% for most employers
- Obstetric service providers remain priority
- Program requirements and selection criteria
- Length and amount of MSLRP agreements
- Providers also applying to the National Health Services Corps
- Partnering with local foundations to recruit and retain primary care providers

[More details>>](#)

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## Meet Michigan's New Medical Exec: Matthew Davis, MD

On Monday, the governor named Matthew Davis, MD, an associate professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at the University of Michigan, as the state's new chief medical executive.

Doctor Davis will be responsible for coordinating Michigan's public health initiatives and policy. He also will serve as a link between MDCH and the medical community, providing outreach and encouraging partnerships. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he also currently serves as an associate professor of public policy at the U of M Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and is a founder of the national poll on children's health.

[More>>](#)

<i>Figure 6</i>		<b>Only one insurance agency PROTECTS YOUR MEDICAL PRACTICE, LIFE, HOME...</b>
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