



Valuable insights on ACOs



e-News for Friday, May 31, 2013

Upcoming Events

Guv Pushing for Medicaid Expansion Before Summer Break

During this week's policy conference on Mackinac Island, Gov. Rick Snyder announced his commitment to work with legislators on expanding the state's Medicaid program before they adjourn for summer break in mid-June. The FY 2013-14 budget bills that lawmakers recently completed do not include a Medicaid expansion, and recent speculation in Lansing has pointed to a possible supplemental appropriations bill in the fall.

MSMS continues to work with the [Expand Medicaid](#) coalition to urge lawmakers to expand Medicaid eligibility and bump the program's rates to that of Medicare, as proffered in the Affordable Care Act. If adopted, the expansion would cover approximately 450,000 additional lives. The federal government would pay for 100% of the cost for the first two years. After that, Michigan would pay for 10% of that additional cost.

An alternate bill was introduced that proposed limiting Medicaid coverage for "able-bodied adults" to four years, a point that has raised some controversy at the state, and even federal, level.

[Contact legislators>>](#)

Also, MSMS has prepared several sample letters to the editor for you to customize and submit to your local newspaper. [Find letters>>](#)

Pay Boost for Primary Care, 'Phew!' for GME Funding

With the FY 2013-14 budgets being wrapped up, the two standout components of the Michigan Department of Community Health's piece of the pie are the Medicaid primary care rate increase and graduate medical education (GME) funding.

[Medicaid reimbursements](#) are going up \$103.2 million for primary care physicians, family physicians and pediatricians, which will

MSMS Foundation Golf & Tennis Classic

June 3

Walnut Hills Country Club - East Lansing


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to MSMS Members

A Case Study on Child Obesity Assessment and Management: A Study to Guide Michigan Physicians



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allow for reimbursements up to Medicare rates. The funding increase, available through the end of 2014, is a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that stipulates certain physicians who provide eligible primary care services will be paid the Medicare rates in effect in calendar years 2013 and 2014 instead of the current state-established Medicaid rates.

MSMS's considerable efforts working with key lawmakers in Lansing, including **Sen. John Moolenaar** (R-Midland), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee, have paid off as GME avoided cuts. A perennial budget chopping-block favorite, GME funding faced a 7% cut in the governor's proposed budget. And although it won't see any increases, this is a big victory for the medical community as we work to keep physicians in Michigan and avoid the impending shortage.

Other MDCH budget highlights:

- Another \$1 million (\$500,000 General Fund) to assist primary care physicians practicing in underserved areas in the repayment of their health education loans
- The \$3 million in mental health services for special populations is being included into the base budget, as opposed to being a one-time expenditure
- \$2 million more for local public health departments
- \$2 million more for infant mortality reduction efforts (going from \$8.1 million to \$10 million), including the addition of four new employees to spread the word on good prenatal care, pregnant woman health and safe infant sleep practices
- \$900,000 (\$90,000 General Fund) for three "behavioral health homes," a trio of demonstration projects to assist Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health conditions such as asthma, heart disease, obesity, mental issues or substance abuse disorders

Fight the Bite! MDCH Urges Protection Against West Nile Virus

With "mosquito season" upon us, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) urges residents to be aware of risks and step up their precautions against the deadly West Nile Virus. Last year, the virus was responsible for 202 illnesses and 17 fatalities reported in Michigan, and nationally 5,674 cases and 286 deaths were reported to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

You can help by sharing these tips with your patients:

1. **Avoid mosquito bites:** Use insect repellent when outdoors especially from dusk to dawn. Look for EPA-labeled products containing active ingredients, such as DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
2. **Mosquito-proof homes:** Fix or install window and door screens and cover or eliminate empty containers with standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs.

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Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) Legal Alert

What physicians need to know under the Medicare Shared Savings Program:

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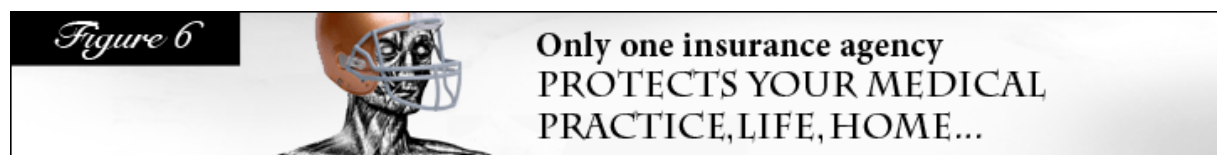
Use 'Tips from Former Smokers' to Start Dialogue with Patients

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) announced a new feature of its "Tips from Former Smokers" campaign: "Talk With Your Doctor." The goal is to encourage physicians and other health care providers to use the tips as an opportunity to start a dialogue with their smoking patients about quitting. It can also serve as a reminder for smokers to talk with their health care providers about effective methods to help them quit.

In collaboration with these primary partners, CDC developed a wide range of resources for the medical community, including:

- Waiting room posters
- A pocket scripting card
- A Medscape Expert Commentary
- A one-page fact sheet
- Frequently asked questions about tobacco quitlines

[Resources>>](#)



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