

MSMS Medigram



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e-News for Friday, August 16, 2013

Upcoming Events

SGR Fight Takes Flight - MSMS Heads to DC



MSMS leaders outside the Capitol in 2008.

While Congress continues its summer recess, MSMS continues efforts to push for repeal of the failing

sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula for Medicare physician reimbursements. Next month, MSMS leaders will head to Washington, DC, to discuss with key lawmakers from Michigan the pending legislation that aims to overhaul the broken reimbursement system.

Prior to the August break, the House Committee on Energy & Commerce passed the bipartisan measure, which would replace the SGR with a new Medicare physician payment update based on performance under an expanded physician quality reporting system (PQRS). The bill provides for an initial five years of positive updates at 0.5% per year. Beginning in 2019, physicians would have the opportunity to earn an additional 1% for successful participation in an expanded PQRS program. Physicians who score poorly would be subject to cut of 1% (a net cut of -0.5%). In addition, the draft provides for the development of alternative payment models that

ICD-10 Bootcamp: The Clock is Ticking

Wednesday - Thursday,
September 25-26
Location TBD

Features live training; course manual with all presentations, resources, coding examples and answers to FAQs; and copy of ICD-10 workbooks and drafts.

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Medical Billing and Coding Summit

Wednesday - Thursday, October
2-3
Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor

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would allow physicians to opt out of the new reporting requirements.

MSMS and the AMA urge members to stay up-to-date on the issue and to keep pressure on their lawmakers using the information and tools in the [AMA Medicare Physician Payment Action Kit](#). In it, you will find Medicare SGR news, contact information for lawmakers, SGR transition principles put forth by the physician community, impact of Medicare cuts on each state, and more.

Healthy Michigan Push in the Red Zone



It's fourth and goal, as the final push to expand Medicaid is in scoring position. The Michigan Senate is scheduled to reconvene on August 27 and is expected to consider the Healthy Michigan Plan,

which aims to expand and reform Medicaid eligibility to those with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level. MSMS urges members to keep pressure on senators to go for a touchdown by passing this measure. [Take action>>](#)

The bill passed the Senate Government Operations Committee earlier this month on a 4-0 vote with all Committee members voting yes, except for one abstention. The Committee also passed alternative proposals, as well.

"We applaud members of the Committee for remembering what is important and putting patients first," said MSMS President Kenneth Elmassian, DO, in a [statement](#).

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A photograph of a smiling female doctor with short dark hair, wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope, standing with her arms crossed.

**Accountable
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The ASM will feature clinical education on more than 40 topics, including cardiology, pain management, diabetes, HIT, infectious disease, dermatology, neurology, rheumatology, endocrinology/diabetes, colon and rectal surgery, asthma updates, urology, women's health, orthopedics, practice transformation, obesity, and more.


Other highlights:

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