Get Educated through MSMS about Chronic Pain Management

In recognition of September 2013 being proclaimed “Pain Awareness Month” by Gov. Rick Snyder, MSMS has taken steps to raise awareness and educate physicians more about this complex issue.

The MSMS Foundation recently received a block grant* to offer a FREE clinical pain management course at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Troy next month. The course, “ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe use While Improving Patient Care,” will be offered at two times: Thursday, October 24, from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m.; and Friday, October 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Register>>

In addition to educational programming, the

148th Annual Scientific Meeting
Wednesday - Saturday, October 23-26
Somerset Inn, Troy

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Physician Executive Development Program - Three-Part Series
Wednesday, October 9, Troy
Monday, October 30, Webinar
Wednesday, November 6, Troy

This series will focus on teaching physicians to become top-notch business leaders while remaining exceptional physicians. It will feature practical information presented by physicians in the trenches.

Register>>
July/August edition of *Michigan Medicine* featured several articles about different facets of chronic pain management, including how to use the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS), the growing problem of opioid abuse, and need for physicians to take the lead on this issue. Read more>>

Finally, MSMS is working to defeat Senate Bill 180, which would essentially eliminate physicians from anesthesia and pain management teams by allowing nurse anesthetists to practice without physician supervision. The bill remains in the Senate Health Policy Committee.

Lawmakers Want to Hear from You on Health Policy Issues

When state legislators want to know where the medical community stands on a particular issue, they reach out to MSMS. Why? Because MSMS represents a huge number of physicians across Michigan, and MSMS shows up in Lansing to be a resource for policymakers.

One way you can do this is by participating in the “Doctor of the Day” program. MSMS physician, resident and student members, MSMS Alliance members, and Michigan Medical Group Management Association members are encouraged to spend a day in Lansing to help drive the MSMS legislative agenda and learn
first-hand about the legislative process.

MSMS will make all arrangements for participants to meet with their own lawmakers and other key leaders, and provide any necessary materials.

This week, members of the MSMS Alliance paid a visit to the Capitol to meet with these lawmakers: Rep. George Darany (D-Dearborn); Rep. Gail Haines (R-Waterford Twp.), Chair, House Health Policy Committee; Sen. Roger Kahn, MD (R-Saginaw), Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee; Rep. Matt Lori (R-Constantine), who introduced Healthy Michigan Plan to expand Medicaid; Sen. John Moolenaar (R-Midland); Sen. Jim Marleau (R-Lake Orion), Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee; Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), Vice Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee; and Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton), who sponsored prior authorization legislation.

Also, Kay E. Watnick, MD, an Oakland County dermatologist, came to Lansing to advocate for House Bills 4404 and 4405, which would ban minors from indoor tanning facilities. Doctor Watnick met with Rep. Hugh Crawford (R-Novi), Rep. Haines, Sen. Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield), Sen. Marleau, and Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak), who sponsored the tanning bills.

Be the next Doctor of the Day>>

Lyme Disease: Delayed Diagnosis Is Greatest Risk, Says TDC

With deer hunting season around the corner, now’s the time to brush up on the risks involved with Lyme disease, a bacterial tickborne disease, and one of the fastest-growing infectious diseases in the US, according to The Doctors Company.
Lyme disease progresses in phases: early localized disease with skin rash and flu-like symptoms, followed by disseminated disease with heart and nervous system involvement (palsy and meningitis), then late disease with severe fatigue, neurocognitive symptoms, and severe joint and muscle pain leading to physical disability. The challenge is diagnosing this disease in the early phases, when treatment is typically curative.

A claims review found that the main liability risk for Lyme disease is system issues that result in delayed diagnosis. More>>