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e-News for Friday, January 17, 2014

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MSMS Succeeds in Getting More Changes to Blue Cross EPO Contract



Blue Cross listens, again! In a week of many changes being made to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's (BCBSM) Southeast Michigan Local Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) Network,

MSMS succeeded in advocating for the elimination of the four-year term in the contract. Based on feedback and ongoing discussion with the physician community, BCBSM has agreed to change the duration term of the EPO so that it will match the TRUST agreement, and has begun the process to amend the EPO contract to remove references to a four-year term through the standard update process. This change will apply to all EPO practitioner contracts, including physicians who have already submitted signature page. This will align the EPO contract term, as well as the termination policy and procedure, with your TRUST PPO contract. MSMS will continue to monitor the changes to the language of the EPO agreement to ensure it appropriately aligns with the TRUST agreement as described by BCBSM.

Also, BCBSM publicly released the names of the participating

Upcoming Events

Physician Sustainability & Payment Reform

January 29, Part I
 March 26, Part II
 Somerset Inn- Troy


This conference series is designed to provide physicians and their staff with a knowledge base to help them survive the sweeping impact of health care delivery and reimbursement reforms.

[Register Now >>](#)

[More Events >>](#)

FREE
to MSMS Members

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



Contact Caryl Markzon:
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hospitals, which physicians need to know as they review terms of the contract:

- Detroit Medical Center hospitals
- Oakwood Healthcare
- St. John Providence Health System hospitals
- Saint Joseph Mercy Health System/CHE Trinity Health
- Botsford Hospital
- Garden City Hospital
- Stonecrest Center
- Straith Hospital for Special Surgery

Resources:

--[BCBSM summary for physicians](#)

--[MSMS legal counsel summary review](#)

As with any contract, it is important that you read and fully understand the contract before making a decision. Physicians and/or their medical practices are reminded to make their own unilateral, independent decisions to participate, or not participate, in BCBSM's EPO Network and to seek the advice of their own legal counsel. *Questions may be directed to Stacey Hettiger at 517-336-5766 or shettiger@msms.org.*

IMGs Advise Snyder Administration on Immigration Issues



(l to r) MSMS's Steve Japinga prepares Doctor Brown, Doctor Baumann, Doctor Jibaly and Doctor Hammami to head to the governor's office.

On Tuesday, several officers of the MSMS International Medical Graduate (IMG) Section Governing Council met with Gov. Snyder's staff regarding barriers to immigration for IMGs as part of the Governor's comprehensive campaign to increase immigration to Michigan of the world's best and brightest. IMG Chair Mouhanad Hammami, MD, a Wayne County pediatrician; Peter Baumann, MD, a Wayne County obstetrician/gynecologist; Allan C.D. Brown, MD, a

Washtenaw County anesthesiologist; and Rima M. Jibaly, MD, a Genesee County pediatric gastroenterologist, talked with Snyder staff about increasing J-1 and H-1B visas, increasing graduate medical education funding for residency training slots, and improving

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state processing for Conrad 30 J-1 visas, among other issues.

The Governor announced his [immigration initiative](#) and the new Michigan Office for New Americans during his State of the State Address on Thursday.

Learn about PQRS Reporting at FREE Webinar Next Week



Doctor Ronan

Want to learn more about implementing PQRS reporting in your practice? Sign up for the free webinar "[Using a PQRS Registry for 2013 PQRS Reporting](#)," on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m.

Featured presenters will be Arthur J. Ronan, DO, an Ingham County family physician, and his practice manager, Beth Charles, who will discuss how to quickly and easily use registry reporting to avoid the PQRS penalty for 2013 patient visits.

This 30-minute webinar, which will be presented by MSMS's partner Docright.com, will cover:

- The PQRS penalty and incentive
 - Their experience in selecting and using a PQRS registry
 - Advantages of measures group reporting
 - Selection of the appropriate measures group
 - Q&A
-

MDPAC Kicks Off Election Year with New Leaders



*Doctor
Komorowski*



*Doctor
Ghose*

On Wednesday, the Michigan Doctors' Political Action Committee (MDPAC) Board of Directors met and elected Mark C. Komorowski, MD, a Bay County plastic surgeon, MDPAC Chair. Amit Ghose, MD, an Ingham County internist, was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

With elections this fall, of particular importance to physicians this year will be the Michigan Supreme Court race, in which two rule-of-law justices will be up for re-election and tort reform laws hang in the balance. This is why it's so important to join with your colleagues to [become an MDPAC member](#). By doing so, you help MSMS advocate health policy on your behalf and help MDPAC support candidates who will represent your profession and your patients well

in all levels of government.

SURVEY: Counties & Former Delegates Tapped for Input on MSMS House of Delegates



MSMS recently established a County Medical Society Task Force on the MSMS House of Delegates in order to address ways to improve the annual policy meeting. In an effort to capture feedback for the Task Force to drive its agenda and eventual recommendations, MSMS has prepared a [brief survey](#) for members who served as delegates in the last five years.

Deadline for completion is February 7.

Social Media Risks and Rewards.

To view this message as a webpage: [click here](#).

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