



# MSMS Medigram

## Social Media Risks and Rewards.

e-News for Friday, January 24, 2014

**CONTENTS:**

1. Blue Cross EPO Contract Extension Ends January 31
2. How the Three SGR Repeal Bills Would Change Current Law
3. Check Out MSMS's Dynamic New Website!
4. Foundation Grants Funds to Lansing-area Free Clinic
5. MSMS Gets Grant from State; New Health Endowment Board Meets

### Blue Cross EPO Contract Extension Ends January 31



Thanks to advocacy from MSMS, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) made several changes to its Southeast Michigan Local Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) Network, including extending the

contract deadline to January 31. Other changes include eliminating the four-year term in the contract and changing the duration term of the EPO so that it will match the TRUST agreement. BCBSM 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.

Resources:

### 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 >>](#)

**Meaningful Use Consulting**

MSMS experts help you qualify for Medicare & Medicaid EHR incentives

Choose six-hour consultation or unlimited for one year

Special discounts for MSMS members!

[msms.org/hit](http://msms.org/hit)

For more info, please contact Dara Barrera at [djbarrera@msms.org](mailto:djbarrera@msms.org) or (517) 336-5770.



- 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](mailto:shettiger@msms.org).*

## How the Three SGR Repeal Bills Would Change the Current Law



The AMA recently released a [new comparison](#) of the three versions of legislation to repeal Medicare's failed SGR formula. The comparison reveals how each bill would impact laws in place today and how the proposals compare to one another. In addition to

eliminating the Medicare payment formula that has injected considerable instability into the health care system, each version of the bill includes improvements over current law, reflecting the medical profession's ongoing work to shape the final legislation that will be considered.

Information on a number of key provisions in the bills are included in the AMA's comparison chart, including updates to physician payments, alignment of Medicare quality reporting programs and medical liability reforms. MSMS continues to work with the AMA to advocate for the most beneficial provisions in the final repeal legislation Use the AMA's [Fix Medicare Now campaign website](#) to urge lawmakers to repeal the SGR in 2014.

**Free MSMS Member Benefit!**  
 HIT/EHR Vendor Contracting Checklist  
 Warranties · Licenses · Security · More  
 Download at [msms.org/hit](http://msms.org/hit)

**Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) Legal Alert**

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

- Business Plans & Financial Models
- Corporate Structure
- Governance Structure
- Shared Savings and Losses
- Terms of Participation and More!

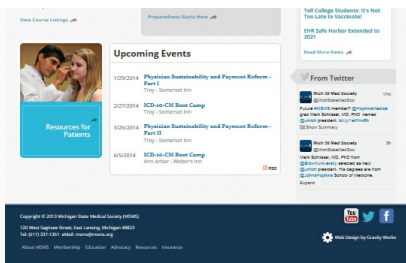
Free MSMS member benefit!  
 Click [here](#) to download

**Free MSMS Member Benefit!**  
 Physicians' Guide to Medical Marihuana Act  
 State & Federal Law · Obligations  
 Qualifications · More  
 Download at [msms.org/marihuana](http://msms.org/marihuana)

## Check Out MSMS's Dynamic New Website!



After a process years in the making and after *much* hard work on the part of key staff, MSMS is proud to launch its [new website](#). Not only does the new site look vastly different from the previous website, but it also functions



and presents information differently.

Members will be able to more easily log onto the website to pay dues and complete other transactions. The new

homepage features a dynamic rotating slideshow of top news and promotional items.

In addition, members and their staff will appreciate the enhanced resource area called “For Practices,” which includes the resources they need every day, such as reimbursement and payers, HIT, quality and safety, legal and regulatory topics, insurance services, public health, health professions, and more.

And in an effort to address the types of routine inquiries MSMS receives from the general public, there is an easily-accessible resource area called “For Patients,” which connects the public to information about finding a physician, medical licensing, differences between health professionals, medical records, health insurers, public health, making health decisions, and more.

Hopefully these teasers will whet your whistle and prompt you to check out the new website for yourself. As always, we value your feedback.

---

## Foundation Grants Funds to Lansing-area Free Clinic



Recently, MSMS presented a check for \$9,000 from the MSMS Foundation to [Care Free Medical & Dental](#), to help provide health care and dental services for uninsured and underserved individuals and families in the Lansing area.

(l to r) Doctor Saltman, State Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), State Rep. Tom Cochran (D-Mason), and Doctor Elmassian

“The Michigan State Medical Society is proud to partner with great community organizations like Care Free who are truly putting the needs of patients first,” said MSMS President Kenneth Elmassian, DO, an Ingham County anesthesiologist, who presented the check to Care Free founder Barry E. Saltman, MD, an Ingham County family physician. “Care Free Medical and Dental is on the front lines of patient care in Lansing and a great example of the positive difference physicians are making across the state of Michigan.”

---

## MSMS Gets Grant from State; New Health Endowment Board Meets



The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) announced the recipients of the Health Innovation Grant for one-time projects up to \$35,000 each that offer an innovative approach to improving the delivery of

Michigan's health services to residents. MDCH will issue a total of \$1,076,358 in funding to 42 projects that address issues such as underage drinking, chronic disease, health transportation, mental illness, homelessness, health disparities in children, dental care, and more. MSMS will receive a grant for education about opioid use.

Also, MDCH announced that the Michigan Health Endowment Fund held its organizational meeting and named its Board of Directors. The Health Endowment Fund was formed by passage of Public Act 4 of 2013, which created the nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act that authorizes certain changes on how Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) operates in this state. It required BCBSM to contribute up to \$1.56 billion over 18 years to a new Health Endowment Fund. [More>>](#)

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>MSMS</b><br/>PHYSICIANS<br/>INSURANCE AGENCY</p> | <p>Professional Liability • Health • Dental • Disability • Business Owners</p> <hr/> <p><i>Protecting your practice, your family and your employees</i></p> |
|--|---|

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

**Michigan State Medical Society**, 120 West Saginaw Street, East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 337-1351 | [msms@msms.org](mailto:msms@msms.org) | [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org)

---

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Michigan State Medical Society  
120 W. Saginaw St.  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical** DELIVERED BY  
**response**  
Try It Free Today!