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e-News for Friday, May 23, 2014

Upcoming Events

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Loan Repayment Bill Clears House, Guv Expected to Sign

Yesterday, the Michigan House passed [Senate Bill 648](#), which would modify a program that re-pays student loans to incentivize more medical students to practice primary care in rural and underserved parts of the state.

The bipartisan bill, co-sponsored by Sen. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) and Rep. Jim Ananich (D-Flint), heads back to the Senate for concurrence next week, and is expected to be signed soon by the governor.

22nd Annual Golf & Tennis Classic

June 2, 2014

Forest Akers West Golf Course - Lansing

Includes 18 holes of golf or "A Friendly Game of Tennis", Lunch, refreshments, and afterglow reception

[Register Now >>](#)

ICD-10-CM Boot Camp

June 5-6, 2014

Weber's Inn - Ann Arbor

This two-day program ensures that physicians, coders, billers, managers, and other health care professionals are prepared for ICD-10 implementation.

[Register Now >>](#)

Testing the PQRS Waters

June 18, 2014

Free Online Webinar

Learn the ins and outs of the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS). This valuable webinar will delve into the benefits of

The bill would remove the four-year limit on loan repayments, increase the maximum annual loan repayment, and establish a lifetime cap on loan repayments.



And it would permit the Michigan Department of Community Health to give preference to physicians studying general practice, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, or internal medicine.

Senator's Physician Brother Heads to CDC

The US Centers Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) announced that Ronald L. Moolenaar, MD, brother of Sen. John Moolenaar, has been appointed Director of the Division of Global Health Protection Program Director/CDC Country Director for China. Doctor Moolenaar joined the CDC in 1992, and previously served as a clinical professor of medicine at Michigan State University in addition to practicing internal medicine in Grand Rapids. [Read more >>](#)

Philosophy Matters When It Comes to Protecting Tort Reforms



(l to r) Justices Zahra and Viviano field questions from MSMS Board members during their recent meeting.

The Michigan Doctors' Political Action Committee (MDPAC) Board of Directors officially endorsed Justice Brian Zahra and Justice David Viviano, two rule-of-law justices who have records of upholding existing laws, such as the crucial tort reforms

participating and how to select measures that will lead to successful reporting.

[Register Now >>](#)

[More Events >>](#)

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MICHIGAN DOCTORS'
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Activate Your Voice

physicians fought so hard to pass in 1993.

"Judicial philosophy matters. It all comes down to the proper role of the court," said Justice Zahra in a 2012 *Michigan Medicine* interview about the importance of maintaining a rule-of-law majority on the bench. "We believe the intent of the law is best derived by studying the words legislators gave us," and not being an activist jurist.

Protecting tort reforms is just one example of 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.

MSMS Wants Your Ideas on Fostering Physician Satisfaction



As highlighted in the AMA/Rand study report, "Factors Affecting Physicians

Professional Satisfaction and Their Implications for Patient Care, Health Systems and Health Policy" and "In Search of Joy in Practice: A Report of 23 High-Functioning Primary Care Practices" in the *Annals of Family Practice*, MSMS is designing a conference intended to share with physicians innovative ideas that can facilitate physician satisfaction and diminish physician burnout.

We are looking for practices that have met specific challenges and roadblocks. For instance, have you been successful in designing ways to overcome chaotic visits

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with overfull agendas? Transformed the roles of your office team? Devised ways to meet the challenge of inadequate support to satisfy the patient demand for care such as pre-visit planning or pre-appointment laboratory tests? Implemented a process to improve team functioning such as work flow management or systems planning?

We want to hear from you today! You might think your practice operates run of the mill policy and procedure, but those methods might not be as obvious to someone else. Send comments to Caryl Markzon at cmarkzon@msms.org (subject line: "Physician Satisfaction") by **Friday, May 30**.

Be a Resource: Reach Out to Legislators This Summer!

As you plan your summer activities, don't forget to make time to connect with legislators in your district. With the legislative session winding down, lawmakers are preparing to return home this summer to campaign for the upcoming election cycle, and to attend picnics, parades and other events in their districts to connect with their constituents.



In addition to these events, MSMS encourages you to attend lawmakers' regular coffee hours or just set up a one-on-one meeting to build a working relationship and be a resource for them on health policy issues, such as scope of practice. Take the opportunity to educate your lawmakers

about [Senate Bill 2](#), in particular, which would put patients across Michigan at risk by reducing the training requirements for those who diagnose and treat patients and prescribe their medicine. The bill is likely to be taken up again in the fall.

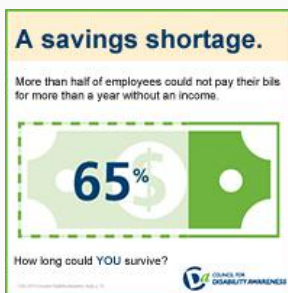
FIND CONTACT INFO - Contact Steve Japinga in the MSMS Government Relations Department for help with scheduling: 517-336-5781 or sjapinga@msms.org. Also, every state legislator has his/her own website that includes district contact information, an event calendar, and details about issues they are addressing.

[Connect with your senator >>](#)

[Connect with your representative >>](#)

Why You Need Disability Insurance

What would you do if you were stricken by a debilitating illness or injury that prevented you from working? The MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency (PIA) reminds you that [Disability Insurance Awareness Month](#) in May is a great time to consider getting coverage to protect your livelihood.



What It Does - Disability Income Insurance is designed to replace a portion of one's income if he/she becomes disabled due to accident or

illness and cannot perform the duties of their regular occupation.

For example, if a surgeon becomes disabled, "Own Occupation for Entire Benefit Period" is a type of coverage that enables him/her to go back to work in the field of internal medicine and still continue to receive a disability claim as a surgeon. PIA, the

insurance agency created for physicians, is one of the very few agencies that still [offers this type of coverage](#).

Contact Heather Hamilton at PIA to evaluate your current or new DI coverage: 517-202-2604 or hhamilton@msms.org.

Apply for Meaningful Use Hardship Exception by July 1

If you are a Medicare physician who was unable to successfully demonstrate meaningful use for 2013 due to circumstances beyond your control, the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will accept applications for hardship exceptions to avoid the upcoming Medicare payment adjustment for the 2013 reporting year.



Payment adjustments for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program will begin on

January 1, 2015, for eligible professionals.

CMS has posted hardship exception applications on the EHR website for:

- [Eligible professionals](#)
- [Eligible professionals submitting multiple National Provider Identifiers \(NPIs\)](#)

[More info >>](#)



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