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e-News for Friday, February 27, 2015

## Finally Fixing Michigan's Medicaid Drug Formulary Problem



MSMS members strongly support a recent proposal by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to improve efficiencies in the delivery of care and simplify the process for Medicaid patients to get the prescription drugs they need.

Today, each Medicaid Health Plan in Michigan has its own formulary for covering drugs, and those formularies change regularly. The result for patients is inconsistent coverage, confusion, and difficulty when drugs prescribed by their physicians that are covered for some months are removed from the list in other months.

Under the new plan by MDCH -- a part of the 2015-2016 state budget proposal -- each of the state's Medicaid patients would be covered under the same prescription drug formulary, which determines which prescription drugs are covered by a patient's health plan. The move would ensure patients get the drugs they need quicker, easier, and with fewer interruptions. It would also increase efficiencies for health care providers, and, according to MDCH, save taxpayers an estimated \$65 million in a full year by enabling the state to take advantage of bulk purchases and discounts.

Please [write your lawmakers today](#) and encourage them to put patients first and improve efficiencies to help them get and keep the prescriptions they need more efficiently and effectively through a single Medicaid drug formulary.

**REMINDER to Delegates: Submit HOD Resolutions by Monday, March 2**

## Upcoming Events



### PCMH: Supporting Patients through Population Health

March 4, 2015  
Troy Marriott - Troy

The Patient Centered Medical Home has become a proven method to elevate patient care. Discover how you can take the PCMH to the next level.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

### 4th Annual Spring Scientific Meeting

May 13-14, 2015  
The Henry - Dearborn

Please join MSMS Foundation at the 4th Annual Spring Scientific Meeting (SSM). Through this conference, MSMS provides you with another educational opportunity. This two-day event is designed for physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

[More Events >>](#)



Resolutions debated during the annual MSMS House of Delegates are the vehicles by which MSMS policies, priorities, and direction are determined. This year's deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015. Resolutions must be submitted via the Online Submission Form at

[www.msms.org/hod](http://www.msms.org/hod). If you have any questions, contact Stacey Hettiger at (517) 336-5766 or [shettiger@msms.org](mailto:shettiger@msms.org).

NOW OPEN: Registration for Delegates, Alternates, and others attending events at the 2015 MSMS House of Delegates is now open on the MSMS website. Visit [www.msms.org/hod](http://www.msms.org/hod) to register.

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## CMS Extends Deadline for EP Meaningful Use Attestation

Eligible professionals now have until **11:59 pm ET on March 20, 2015**, to attest to meaningful use for the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program 2014 reporting year.

CMS extended the deadline to allow providers extra time to submit their meaningful use data. CMS continues to urge providers to begin attesting for 2014 as soon as they can.

This extension also allows eligible professionals, who have not already used their one "switch", to switch programs (from Medicare to Medicaid, or vice versa) for the 2014 payment year until **11:59 pm ET on March 20, 2015**. After that time, eligible professionals will no longer be able to switch programs.

[Read more >>](#)

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## PROM Seeks Specialists to Serve as Peer Reviewers

Physician's Review Organization of Michigan (PROM) is seeking peer reviewers in all specialty fields. The increased necessity for independent peer review has required PROM to search for additional specialists to assist in providing high quality peer reviews.

Since its founding in 1983 by the Michigan State Medical Society and Michigan Osteopathic Association, PROM has provided case reviews to a wide range of groups including hospitals, physician practices, managed care organizations, and major insurance companies.

PROM has a peer review panel of more than 250 physicians and allied health professionals in a variety of specialties to ensure its clients receive informed, confidential, and objective reviews. PROM is fully accredited by the American Accreditation Health Care Commission (URAC).

If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please contact Mirya Brion at 517-336-1442, (800) 722-5392 or

djbarrera@msms.org or (517) 336-5770.' The background features a faint image of a stethoscope."/&gt;

## International Medical Graduates Invited to IMG Section Annual Meeting Saturday, March 14

All MSMS members who are International Medical Graduates are invited to attend the MSMS IMG Section annual meeting on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MSMS Headquarters in East Lansing.

Topics will include IMG resolutions to the MSMS House of Delegates and a review of long-standing IMG issues including J-1 Visa Waivers, HB-1 Visas, GME funding, Conrad 30, and contracting issues. Candidates for MSMS President-elect also will speak including David Krhovsky, MD, from Kent County and Bassam Nasr, MD, MBA, from St. Clair County.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to staff David Fox at [dkfox@msms.org](mailto:dkfox@msms.org).

## Tell Congress to Fix Medicare

It's that time again -- with a little more than a month before the current sustainable growth rate (SGR) patch is set to expire on March 31, Congress has done little to follow up on the bipartisan progress made over the last two years. There is still time for Congress to pass meaningful SGR reform before the deadline, but it has to act now or risk another temporary extension of the status quo.

This is why we need you to speak up and make your voice heard on SGR. To do that, we've developed an easy and dynamic tool that allows you to engage with your legislators.

Engage, MSMS' new grassroots online advocacy tool, allows you to interact directly with your legislators through [email](#) and on their [Twitter](#) accounts that convey our message: Now is the time for SGR repeal. It's quick and easy.

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

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