

## **Medical Malpractice**

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- » Virginia's physicians continue to strongly encourage the General Assembly to maintain its support for the medical malpractice cap in its current form with no increases.
- » The cap on medical malpractice awards protects the health, safety and welfare of patients by ensuring the availability of physicians and the adequacy of health care services in Virginia.
- » The \$2 million cap has effectively stabilized malpractice premiums and attracted insurers to the state, helping keep physicians in Virginia.
- » Further increases in the cap are not warranted based on recent claims history. Moreover, cost of living adjustments to the cap are not a solution. Establishing perpetual escalators to the cap will defeat its purpose by destabilizing the marketplace and increasing the cost of medical care.

## **Medicaid**

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- » Virginia is forecasting a revenue shortfall of \$1.5 billion for 2010 following two tough years for providers when cuts to Medicaid were only narrowly avoided. Currently, physicians treating Medicaid recipients are reimbursed well below their cost of providing care.
- » Virginia's most vulnerable citizens, including children, the elderly, expectant mothers and the disabled, rely on Medicaid for the primary care they need. Virginia ranks 48th nationally in Medicaid expenditures per capita.
- » According to a survey of physicians conducted by MSV in 2009, as little as a 3 percent cut in Medicaid reimbursement would have a disastrous effect on the accessibility of physician care to a growing number of uninsured Virginians.
- » Although the Commonwealth has made efforts to increase physician Medicaid rates in specific areas of service, there has never been an effort to develop a long-term solution.

## **Scope of Practice**

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- » In recent years a variety of ancillary health care providers have sought to expand their scope of practice; from changes to their medical supervisory arrangements, to being granted prescriptive authority, or to being granted licensure or independent practice.
- » MSV has monitored perennial scope of practice issues advanced by groups representing nurse practitioners, naturopaths, chiropractors, physician assistants, podiatrists, and lay midwives.
- » MSV is committed to working with ancillary health care providers to assess the impact on patient care and quality before offering our support or opposition.

## Mental Health

- » MSV continues to coordinate the efforts of the Physicians for Mental Health Reform (PMHR) coalition to call for improvements to the Commonwealth's mental health system.
- » Virginia presently faces a shortage of primary care physicians who are adequately trained to deal with patients displaying symptoms of mental illness.
- » MSV supports increasing the capacity of primary care physicians to care for children with mental health disorders by seeking state funding to grow a successful pilot program so that access to pediatric mental health care in Virginia may be expanded.

## Access to Care

- » MSV has been an active participant in the Healthcare for All Virginians Coalition, which is working to help create and advocate for accessible, affordable, quality health care for all Virginians.
- » MSV supports incentives for medical school loan relief through the Virginia Loan Repayment Program for any new physicians willing to practice primary care for two years in an underserved community.

### Save the date!

## White Coats on Call Schedule



January 19 (Tuesday) .....	District 2
January 20 (Wednesday) .....	Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute Day
January 21 (Thursday) .....	Radiology Day
January 26 (Tuesday) .....	District 10
January 27 (Wednesday) .....	District 3
January 28 (Thursday) .....	Pediatric Day
February 1 (Monday) .....	District 6 and District 9
February 2 (Tuesday) .....	District 1 and District 7
February 4 (Thursday) .....	District 8
February 9 (Tuesday) .....	District 5
February 11 (Thursday) .....	District 1 and District 10
February 23 (Tuesday) .....	District 3
February 25 (Thursday) .....	District 2, District 9 and VACEP Day
March 2 (Tuesday) .....	District 6 and District 8
March 4 (Thursday) .....	District 5 and District 7

**Register on-line for White Coat Days at**  
<http://www.msv.org/wcoc>