



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA Issue Backgrounder

Definition of Surgery HB 266 (Peace) and SB 543 (Martin)

Currently there is no legal definition of surgery in the Code of Virginia. Increasingly, and as federal and state policies promote team-care approaches, there are more opportunities for various health care providers to deliver services which may not be clearly within their training and education. Consequently, there is a need to define what constitutes surgery, who may perform surgical procedures on patients, and which entities are appropriate to monitor and ensure patient safety and quality.

Given the Medical Society of Virginia's (MSV) support of the team-based care model and ongoing focus on quality care and patient safety, the organization supports HB 266 and SB 543, which will define surgery without unnecessarily restricting physicians or other professionals from practicing to the appropriate limit of their education and training.

The proposed definition of surgery in HB 266 and SB 543 is based on language developed by the American College of Surgeons and adopted by the American Medical Association and was guided by the following parameters:

- The definition should limit surgery to physicians, dentists and podiatrists licensed by the Board of Medicine or Board of Dentistry.
- No other board or agency should regulate performance of surgery.
- The definition should not limit currently allowed or legal procedures performed by allied health professions.
- It should not limit or attempt to define procedures performed by different physicians practicing within their professionally accepted scope.

This legislation is an effective way to help ensure patients are receiving safe and properly regulated surgical procedures.

Supporting Organizations

Medical Society of Virginia
American Academy of Pediatrics - Virginia Chapter
Virginia Academy of Family Physicians
Virginia Chapter - American College of
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Virginia Chapter - American College of Physicians
Virginia Chapter - American College of Radiology
Virginia Chapter - American College of Surgeons

Virginia College of Emergency Physicians
Virginia Orthopaedic Society
Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists
Virginia Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
Virginia Society of Otolaryngologists
Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons

Please support HB 266 (Peace) and SB 543

For more information, contact the Medical Society of Virginia's government affairs department by phone at 804 | 343-1185, or visit the MSV Web site, www.msv.org/legislative.





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Medicaid

In recent years, Virginia's challenged budget has threatened the Medicaid program, specifically reimbursements for the critical network of health care providers, including physicians. As the economy has become more strained, so has the Medicaid program, with significantly increasing numbers of enrollees and even more predicted in the coming years.

Given this challenging environment, the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) was pleased that Gov. Bob McDonnell did not include physician reimbursement cuts in his proposed budget. However, the governor did not hold harmless hospitals and nursing homes. Current Medicaid reimbursements for physicians and other providers are already below the cost of care. Any reductions put patient access to care at significant risk.

- Low levels of reimbursement do not just impact patients and their access to care, but also have a wider economic impact on the commonwealth. For example, as a result of the three percent Medicaid provider payment cut that was in place from July 1, 2010 to Oct. 1, 2010, 18 percent of Medicaid physician providers who responded to a survey said they were forced to make personnel changes including reducing staffing, compensation and benefits (MSV Survey, Dec. 2010).
- In a 2010 MSV survey, over 90 percent of physician respondents said that their Medicaid patients have difficulty accessing care. Over half said they would have to stop accepting new Medicaid patients if provider rates were cut.

MSV hopes that as Virginia's budget scenario improves, the General Assembly and administration will prioritize health care by supplementing the Medicaid program and continuing to ensure an adequate safety network to care for Virginia's most vulnerable patients.

Please support Gov. McDonnell's approach to the Medicaid budget—do not enact physician provider payment cuts.

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Health Care Delivery Teams Physicians and Nurse Practitioners – HB 346 (O'Bannon)

Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) physician leaders have participated in efforts to address geographical health care access disparity, workforce issues and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on demand for health care services and delivery models. Balancing the nexus among health care workforce capacity challenges while providing quality patient care and ensuring access to care continues to be a top priority for MSV.

The team-based care model has become more prevalent, most visibly through a growing trend toward patient-centered medical homes and accountable care organizations. Many physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs) currently work effectively in these models and this legislation will reflect what is, in these cases, current practice.

MSV supports HB 346, which reflects an agreement reached between MSV and the Virginia Council on Nurse Practitioners (VCNP). This bill will reinforce the team-care concept and will enhance patient access to quality care in the commonwealth.

Specifically, the bill will:

- Provide for a consultative and collaborative approach that supports patient-centered care
- Ensure that physicians remain the leader and manager of the health care team
- Enable physicians to manage more nurse practitioners (formerly four, would be six), thereby increasing the number of patients that can be seen
- Allow for more flexibility for NPs to treat patients in nursing homes and free clinics
- Reduce paperwork – increasing efficiency

Please support HB 346 (O'Bannon)

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