

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HEALTH CARE ISSUES PENDING BEFORE THE 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Gene M. Ransom, III
Chief Executive Officer
MedChi
MCMS Meeting
1/22/2015



MedChi's Legislative Agenda

Advocate for Physicians	Advocate for Patients	Advocate for Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen Medical Liability Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defend Scope of Practice to Ensure Patients Seen By a Physician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make Maryland a Tobacco Free State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance Physician Payment & Insurance Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect Medicaid and the Uninsured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect Maryland's Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen Criminal Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reform Unfair Insurance Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End Health Disparities ▪ Access Toxic Chemical Exposure Information

Physician Delegates Attended Our Legislative Council January 12th



**Delegate Terri
Hill, MD**

**Delegate
Clarence Lam,
MD**

**Delegate Dan
Morhaim, MD**

**Delegate Jay
Jalisi, MD**

Sign Up for the Legislative Council

Call Stephanie on ext. 6001 to sign up.

Future Meetings:

- ✿ Jan 26
- ✿ Feb. 2
- ✿ Feb. 9
- ✿ Feb. 16
- ✿ Feb. 23
- ✿ March 2 (Annapolis)

* Unless otherwise noted, meeting will be held at MedChi, Baltimore.

FY 2015 Budget Cuts

- The Board of Public Works approved Governor O'Malley's proposed budget revisions
 - Imposing 2 percent reductions for all state agencies. DHMH will see its \$4.1 billion budget shrink by about \$63.8 million
 - Cut physicians' evaluation and management reimbursement rate under Medicaid from 100 percent to 87 percent starting in April — a \$9 million reduction.
 - Dr. Cymet conveyed MedChi's disappointment in the Washington Business Journal.

Maryland health community balks at O'Malley's proposed cuts to Medicaid

Jan 8, 2015, 1:21pm EST | UPDATED: Jan 8, 2015, 1:29pm EST






★ Save  Order Reprints 


 Tina Reed
 Staff Reporter-
 Washington Business Journal
 Email | Twitter

Maryland health experts are protesting Medicaid reductions in outgoing Gov. Martin O'Malley's proposed mid-year budget cuts this week, saying the reductions threaten the state's ability to handle an influx of patients resulting from health care reform.

On Wednesday, Maryland's Board of Public Works approved a plan to address a \$400 million revenue shortfall in part by imposing 2 percent reductions for all state agencies. Budget officials said at least \$92 million of the cuts will include reducing reimbursements to Medicaid providers, as well as reductions to local government aid and shrinking higher education spending, the Baltimore Sun reported.

The proposed budget revisions include a cut to physicians' evaluation and management reimbursement rate under Medicaid from 100 percent to 87 percent starting in April — a \$9 million reduction.

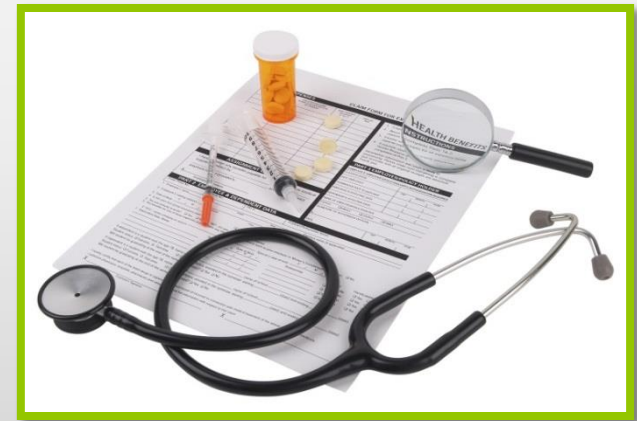


 Enlarge Photo

Courtesy
 Dr. Tyler Cymet, president of the Maryland State Medical Society, raised concern Thursday that cuts to Medicaid reimbursement would make it difficult for the state to meet the needs of its growing Medicaid population. "If reimbursement rates begin to decline to original levels, State will find itself unable to provide necessary access care to the Medicaid population," he said.


Compounding Update

- In late Dec. 2014, the Board of Pharmacy voted to postpone the effective date of the sterile compounding permit program from 1/1/2015 to 7/1/2015. MedChi had been actively meeting with the Board and legislators on a delay.
- Next step is to seek repeal of the compounding law.



Leveraging Partnerships: We Work for Health

- ✿ Patient Protection language
- ✿ Health Exchange Polling
- ✿ Meeting with legislators and HSCRC
- ✿ Poll to be done by Jan. 27th

Proposed Maryland Legislative Language 		
Objective	Rationale	Policy Focus Areas
Non-discrimination	Plans may not use formularies to discourage sicker patients from enrolling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring plans do not discriminate against those most in need of care • Formulary rules; coverage for new medicines • Tools and rules to prevent plan discrimination, including reporting requirements
Patient Protections	Plans must employ safeguards to ensure appropriate access to medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network adequacy • Prevent mid-year formulary changes • Meet standards for P&T Committee/formulary review • One drug within class at preferred pricing • Machine-readable formularies
Affordability, Parity and Comparability	Patients should not face high costs simply because their condition is treated with a medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parity with other services

Medicare Waiver: Status

- ✿ CMS approved the new Maryland Medicare Waiver application on 1/10/2014
 - New model requires hospitals to transition from payment per patient admission to per capita total hospital growth
 - Maryland must generate \$330 million in Medicare savings over a five-year period
 - Hospital cost growth limited to 3.58%
 - If Maryland fails to meet the new model, hospitals will transition to the national Medicare payment system over two years
- ✿ Status
 - ✓ HSCRC Advisory Committee meetings completed
 - ✓ Workgroup reports filed with the Commission
 - HSCRC Care Coordination Work Group underway

HSCRC Public Engagement Short Term Process Phases

☀ Phase 1:

- Fall 2013: Advisory Council - recommendations on broad principles
- January 2014- July 2014: Workgroups
 - Four workgroups convened
 - Focused set of tasks needed for initial policy making of Commission
 - Majority of recommendations presented by July 2014

☀ Phase 2: July 2014 – July 2015

- Always anticipated longer-term implementation activities
- July Workgroup reports to address proposed future work plan
- Advisory Council reconvening

Six Things You Can Do **TODAY** to Help Yourself and MedChi!

- ✿ Have the MedChi Agency do an Insurance Review – no cost, no obligation
- ✿ Have MedChi Network Services do a practice assessment – no cost, no obligation
- ✿ Help our Membership Committee grow our membership – Is your practice at 100%?
- ✿ Take a stack of MD Rx cards if you have uninsured or underinsured patients
- ✿ Visit with our sponsor and thank them for supporting MCMS
- ✿ Join MMPAC and get involved in our advocacy effort by using our Legislative Action Center



Closing Comments

Follow us and comment on Facebook or Twitter
(@MedChiupdates or @GeneRansom)

Visit www.medchi.org

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the
physicians of Maryland.

