



OVERVIEW OF KEY MSSNY ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO ASSIST PHYSICIANS AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS

The 2021 Legislative Session has concluded. MSSNY advocacy resulted in the:

- **Passage** of legislation to provide stronger regulation of PBMs;
- **Passage** of legislation to limit mid-policy year formulary changes;
- **Defeat** of legislation that would have caused huge increases in medical liability premiums; and
- **Defeat** of numerous bills which would have imposed excessive mandates on physician care delivery.

During the most recent 2021-2022 NYS Budget negotiations, MSSNY advocacy and grassroots activities resulted in several victories for physicians and patients, including:

- **Extended** Excess Malpractice Insurance Program
- **Rejected** Physician Responsibility for 50% Excess Insurance Cost-Share
- **Protected** Physician Due Process During OPMC Investigations
- **Protected** Physician Confidentiality When a Complaint Has Been Filed Against Them With OPMC
- **Rejected** Pharmacy Scope Changes by Preventing Expansion of the Physician-Pharmacy Collaborative Drug Program and Pharmacists Performing Lab Tests Without Physician Coordination
- **Enhanced** Essential Plan Coverage and Payments
- **Protected** Ability to Apply for E-Prescribing Waivers
- **Protected** Medicaid "Prescriber Prevails"
- **Rejected** No-Fault De-Credentialing
- **Averted** Cuts to MSSNY's Committee for Physicians Health
- **Established** "Pass-Through" Entity Tax Option for Partnerships Enabling Full SALT Deductions

MSSNY Advocacy resulted in the recent announcement that claims submitted to liquidated health insurer Health Republic would be paid.

MSSNY worked with the NY Congressional Delegation, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Federation of Medicine to prevent implementation of a 2% sequester cut until at least 2022 and to mostly prevent implementation of a 10% cut to Medicare physician payment conversion factor while continuing to move forward with payment increases to E&M codes.

MSSNY worked with the NY Congressional Delegation, the AMA and the Federation of Medicine to enact legislation to help enable physician practices adversely impacted by the pandemic to obtain a second forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loan, and ensuring that the expenses used by the PPP loan/grant can continue to be tax deductible.

MSSNY Advocacy resulted in actions by the NY DFS and DOH to greatly expand coverage for telehealth including:

- Without having to collect a co-pay from a patient
- Using basic technology like FaceTime and audio-only

- Worked with many insurers to provide payment ‘parity’

MSSNY successfully advocated together with specialty medical societies and county medical societies to permit elective surgeries in hospitals, ASCs and OBS after they were restricted last spring.

MSSNY Advocacy resulted in action by the DOH to expand the 3-hour reporting period within which physicians were required to report all Influenza and COVID-19 test results to DOH, increasing the reporting window to 24 hours.

Throughout the pandemic, MSSNY has been in daily contact with the Governor’s office and NYSDOH regarding:

- Ensuring the availability of COVID vaccine for physicians, their staff and their patients
- PPE availability
- Facilitating volunteers to “hotspots”
- Ensuring physicians have key information
- Making sure physician offices remain “essential”

These are the result of MSSNY membership and physician grassroots activities at work – the collective voice of thousands of NYS physicians, residents, medical students, and allies, working in concert to increase the health and safety of all New Yorkers. Thank you for your partnership.

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