

Why Physicians Need Your Help

PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS - Experience the Growing Pains of the Affordable Health Care Act.

The State of the Union Address delivered by President Obama on 1/28/14 is now old news. The message, including just 426 words about the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) have been scrutinized by pundits *ad Nauseam*, and whether you agree with one side or the other, the bottom line is this: The health care system we are now trying to re-create is far more complex than most Americans can imagine.

As Americans struggle to determine if the "Affordable Healthcare Act" is sustainable and whether they should take the plunge and sign up, the medical community is preparing for a "Code Blue".

The unfortunate reality is that the Exchange system is confusing, time consuming, non-transparent and risky, especially for physicians.

This risk comes at a time when physicians are already being required to invest considerable money, time and energy in Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems and other information security system technologies. Most physicians who have adopted these systems find their efficiency is reduced, not improved.

This pending huge investment has caused many health providers to look for the best places and opportunities for the practice of medicine, and unfortunately, Connecticut is at the bottom of the list.



Why M.D. Makes a Difference

The best estimates in national reports place Connecticut third from the bottom. The high cost of living and failure to pass tort reform are often cited as reasons for the poor rating.

That is why the medical community fought so diligently to preserve the one meaningful piece of Connecticut tort law that actually helps stop frivolous lawsuits: the Certificate of Merit.

But even last year's victory that kept this important piece of legislation in place may not be enough to preserve access to medical doctors, who provide the highest quality of health care. We believe strongly believe meaningful tort reform initiatives, such as health courts and other "outside the box" approaches, designed to efficiently and fairly deal with medical liability cases are needed to attract new doctors and keep great doctors practicing in Connecticut.



We also believe we need to address issues of "adequate networks" with regard to contracting law with managed care companies. It is important to provide some safety nets to ensure that doctors will be paid if they participate in Exchange Plans during the 31-90 day window, where they are most vulnerable for not receiving payment from consumers

We have many challenges to face with the implementation of the ACA, but making some progressive choices will help preserve the highest quality of healthcare for Connecticut residents.

Please join us in supporting quality Healthcare for Connecticut.

Challenges - Please Oppose

Unfortunately we anticipate many scope of practice initiatives which will lower the quality of healthcare:

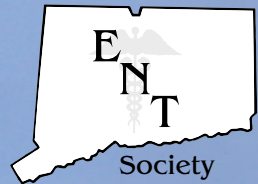
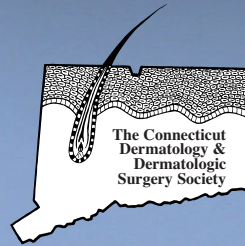
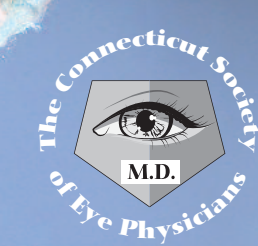
- Legislation that seeks to reduce the level of education required to be a primary care provider in Connecticut.
- Legislation that seeks to give prescriptive authority to individuals who are not properly trained in medicine.



Opportunities - Please Support

Any initiatives introduced to strengthen the healthcare delivery system:

- Legislation that seeks to reduce the liability for physicians and surgeons for the claims submitted by Exchange plan providers in days 31-90, which may be pending and ultimately denied by the Exchange plan upon enrollee termination. This would leave the physician responsible for collecting payment for a service already rendered, which can be very difficult.
- Legislation that promotes medical liability reform, establishing a predictable framework for differentiating between good care and bad care, ensuring our patient's access to high quality, affordable health care and avoiding the crippling costs and inefficiencies of defensive medicine.
- Legislation that promotes transparency and truth in advertising for all health care providers.



**Preserving
Access
to
Medical Doctors**

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