

Medical Society of the State of New York 2016 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Among the bills **adopted** by the Legislature supported by MSSNY:

- Creating a statewide drug “take back” program for the safe disposal of medications, to be paid for by the pharmaceutical industry.
- Requiring health insurers to provide data to the Department of Financial Services for public reporting purposes regarding how insurers are complying with the mental health parity/substance abuse coverage requirements
- Requiring insurance coverage for prostate cancer screening without cost-sharing for men 50 and over who are asymptomatic, and 40 and over with a family history
- Prohibiting use of tanning facilities for those under 18
- Provisions to extend MSSNY’s Committee for Physicians’ Health confidentiality and liability protections until 2023
- A new \$100,000 grant to MSSNY specifically to provide education to physicians on women’s health issues

Moreover, numerous adverse proposals that had been under serious consideration in the final weeks of Session **were defeated or had objectionable provisions removed:**

- Reduced the role of county medical societies in approving physicians to become authorized under Workers Compensation
- Required physicians to report certain patients to the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Required physicians to inquire and document the school attended by their school age patients
- Required physicians to co-prescribe naloxone for patients for whom an opioid medication is prescribed
- Reduced to 3 days the time frame for a physician to write an initial prescription for an opioid medication for a patient with acute pain
- Threatened public health by expanding religious exemptions for otherwise required child immunizations
- Reduced the likelihood of a physician to be successful when bringing an out of network claim to Independent Dispute resolution
- Required oncologists to test certain patients for an enzyme deficiency
- Expanded the scope of practice for naturopaths, podiatrists, dieticians, estheticians, optometrists, psychologists and many other non-physicians
- Expanded liability against physicians through expansion of wrongful death awards, removal of contingency fee limits and prohibiting ex-parte interviews.

We thank you for your close collaboration with us. More details of these issues can be found in the MSNY e-news.