

Medicaid

- As Medicaid enrollment is expected to grow by an additional 271,000 to 426,000 individuals in 2014 and the commonwealth faces an expected \$800 million shortfall in the Medicaid budget, it is critical for Virginia to protect its Medicaid provider network. Virginia's health care system is already strained to provide care to its existing Medicaid enrollees.
- Many physicians see the provision of care to this vulnerable patient population as an important service to their communities, but the challenge for health care providers is that current levels of Medicaid reimbursement do not cover the cost of providing care.
- Virginia's office-based physicians supported 90,464 jobs in Virginia (AMA Economic Impact Study 2009). In addition, Virginia's office-based physicians created a total of \$21.5 billion in direct and indirect economic output in 2009.
- If cuts to Medicaid provider payments are enacted, many physicians would have to make difficult business decisions like reducing staffing, compensation and benefits for their employees, not to mention the increased difficulty patients would have in finding the care they need.

Scope of Practice

- Physicians remain committed to a collaborative patient-centered team approach to health care, as well as a willingness to assess the impact of any scope of practice changes on patient care and quality before offering our support or opposition.
- Balancing the nexus among health care workforce capacity challenges, providing quality patient care and ensuring access to care is a top priority for MSV.

Safe Surgery

- MSV supports establishing a statutory definition of surgery to clearly define what constitutes surgery, who may safely perform surgical procedures on patients, and which regulatory mechanisms are appropriate to ensure patient safety and quality. Defining surgery in the Virginia code will accomplish this without unnecessarily restricting physicians or other professionals from practicing to the appropriate limits of their education and training.

Medical Records Charges

- MSV will seek legislation to allow for recovery of actual costs for the reproduction of medical records by health care facilities commensurate with the rise in costs related to providing these services.
- MSV will propose to amend current statutes to reflect the shift from paper-based records to electronic health records.

Health Reform

- MSV and member physicians have been active participants in the Virginia Health Reform Initiative, which most recently has focused on health benefit exchanges. MSV continues to work to ensure that physician and patient interests are represented and heard as changes are considered to improve Virginia's health insurance and health care delivery systems.

In Defense of Medicine

- MSV is prepared to address any legislation that would be harmful to patients and the physician community. Often such legislation is well-intentioned, but may have unintended consequences that will affect patient care or quality.

Save the date!

White Coats on Call Schedule

January 17 (Tuesday)	MSV District 8, District 6 and Urology (VUS) day
January 18 (Wednesday)	District 5
January 19 (Thursday)	Radiology day and District 10
January 23 (Monday)	District 7 and District 9
January 24 (Tuesday)	District 3
January 26 (Thursday)	Pediatric day
January 31 (Tuesday)	District 1 and District 2
February 2 (Thursday)	Otolaryngology (VSO) and Pathology (VSP) day
February 9 (Thursday)	Internists' (ACP) day
February 15 (Wednesday)	Surgeons' (VA-ACS) day
February 21 (Tuesday)	District 5 and District 10
February 22 (Wednesday)	District 3
February 23 (Thursday)	District 2 and District 7
February 28 (Tuesday)	District 1, District 6 and VACEP day
March 1 (Thursday)	District 8 and District 9

