The BULLETIN

MARCH 2025 VOLUME 101 NUMBER 3

U.S. RECORDS OVER 300 MEASLES CASES IN FIRST *THREE MONTHS OF 2025*

MARCH IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

30 Years Healing Hands 5k Run/Walk

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
Established 1841

Organized Medicine's Leading Edge

THE BULLETIN is published monthly by:
The Genesee County Medical Society

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MARCH 2025 VOLUME 101, NUMBER 3

THE BULLETIN

READ BY 96% OF GCMS MEMBERS

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Our Vision

That the Genesee County Medical Society maintain its position as the premier medical society by advocating on behalf of its physician members and patients.

Our Mission

The mission of the Genesee County Medical Society is leadership, advocacy, education, and service on behalf of its members and their patients.

PLEASE NOTE

The GCMS Nominating Committee seeks input from members for nominations for the GCMS Presidential Citation for Lifetime Community Service. The Committee would like to be made aware of candidates for consideration.

THE BULLETIN
Published by the Genesee County Medical Society Publication Office
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Buy subscription $60 per year. Member subscription included with Society dues. Contributions to ***THE BULLETIN*** are always welcome. Forward news extracts or material of interest to the staff before the 1st of the month. All statements or comments in ***THE BULLETIN*** are the statements or opinions of the writers and are not necessarily the opinion of the Genesee County Medical Society .

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
Established 1841

GCMS Meetings

Medical Society Foundation Board Meeting
April 16th, 2025
6 :00 P.M.

Board of Directors
April 22nd, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Physician and Legislative Forum Meeting
May 5th 2025
8:00 A.M.

Practice Manager Meeting
May 8th, 2025
9:00A.M

***All meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted**

Announcement

GCMS members now entitled to a 15% discount on automobile and homeowners insurance.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

GCMS President's corner

3/24/25.

I am happy to be the interim GCMS president for this year. Our president for this year Dr. Ethiraj Raj was installed last November for 2024 but resigned due to medical illness. I am grateful for his service as Treasurer for several years and service to the organization overall. We will miss his steady and clear-minded contributions in our board meetings. We wish him speedy recovery, and he has an open invitation to return to active participation in GCMS when he is able.

This year has started off with uncertainties and opportunity. The medical societies, in general, have continued to suffer from declining membership. GCMS has been an exception to this and has maintained membership. With an eye toward increasing engagement, we recently conducted multicounty webinar on 3/19/2025, E-cigarette and Novel Tobacco Product Education for the Health Care Provider. This was a well-attended event with over 50 participants and providing 2 hours of AMA category 1 credit. The event highlighted the data regarding the safety of vaping nicotine and other substances. The program highlighted the dangers of nicotine for the developing brain, which is not mature until age 25, and the increased potential for nicotine dependence with early use. It covered the initial development of popcorn lung (bronchiolitis obliterans), which is considered to be likely from a chemical injury produced by heating and aerosolization of vitamin E with THC liquids in vape pens. The program ended with smoking and vaping cessation methods and aides.

On the state front, representative Matt Bierlein has put forth legislation (House Bill 4277) which removes questions in the Michigan licensure process related to mental health conditions and impairment. These types of questions are known to be a disincentive from seeking mental health care by physicians. This issue was raised in 1 of our legislative sessions last year and this bill appears to be a product of our discussion. This is proof that our engagement with our local politicians can make a difference.

On the federal level, Medicare reimbursement for physicians continues to be on a chopping block. The Medicare physician fee reimbursement schedule has not been keeping up with the inflationary pressures of maintaining a practice. CMS finalized at 2.83% across-the-board cut the physician reimbursement in 11/2024 for 2025. However, there is some hope that this cut will be aborted during the reconciliation process.

As a society, we need to engage our fellow physicians and efficiently engage with any new physicians coming into Genesee County. The price of disengagement is declining membership, and declining influence in the practice of medicine. There are many reasons for engagement including reducing burnout, putting guardrails on aspects of corporate medicine that may harm patient care, and maintaining the quality of health care with the physician-led approach. I welcome your participation and any suggestions which may help improve our engagement in the physician community.

Paul G. Kocheril MD

DR PAUL KOCHERIL , MD

GCMS PRESIDENT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Genesee County Medical Society

A Pioneer in the State

In the summer of 2023, Dr. James Martin (cardiothoracic surgeon) approached GCMS and requested more Town Hall meetings to focus on required CME for physician licensure for the state of Michigan. This was a good suggestion; one GCMS should focus on.

As GCMS began organizing Dr. Martin's request, an idea came to mind. This would be a good way to unite all medical societies in the state. It was decided, GCMS would invite other county medical societies in the state to join GCMS as the first multi-county meeting. Upon approaching other county medical societies, the idea was immediately accepted. This was the beginning of the multi-county medical Societies meetings. This is an additional benefit to membership, free required CME offered to members.

The first multi-county meeting was held in May 2024, the topic was mandatory CME for Pain Management and Drug Addiction. A speaker was provided from Genesee County (Dr. Michael Danic), Washtenaw County (Dr. John Hopper), and Ingham County (Dr. Narasimha Gundamraj). The first multi-county meeting was an overwhelming success, with almost 200 attendees.

Genesee County Medical Society gained new memberships from offering the webinar. The late Dr Venkat Rao submitted a resolution to the Michigan State Medical Society to offer free required CME to its membership. Attending the MSMS House of Delegates in 2023, Dr. Rao had David Hoff testify in front of a reference committee explaining the GCMS experience offering free required CME and obtaining new membership. The resolution written by Dr. Venkat Rao passed at the 2023 MSMS House of Delegates meeting.

December 2024, the Michigan State Medical Society began offering free CME to all of its members. The Genesee County Medical Society and Dr. Venkat Rao had a significant impact on this additional benefit offered by the Michigan State Medical Society. The late Dr. Venkat Rao was responsible for submitting the resolution to MSMS to obtain this additional membership benefit.

Membership within the Genesee County Medical Society includes a membership to Michigan State Medical Society. You must be a member of both, single memberships are not available. Free required CME offered by MSMS can easily be a value worth more than the cost of membership.

March 19, 2025 the Genesee County Medical Society hosted the second multi-county webinar on E-Cigarette use. Although the attendance was not as high as the first webinar, it was a good turnout of attendees.

The two presenters were from Genesee County; Dr. Bara Zuhaili (Michigan Vascular) and Dr. Britanny Tayler (pediatrician Hurley Hospital). The webinar was a two-hour 2 CME Town Hall meeting via Zoom.

The county medical societies involved with the March 19 webinar included:

1. Genesee County Medical Society
2. Ingham County Medical Society
3. Washtenaw County Medical Society
4. Kent County Medical Society
5. Saginaw County Medical Society
6. Jackson County Medical Society
7. St. Clair County Medical Society
8. Oakland County Medical Society
9. Macomb County Medical Society
10. Wayne County Medical Society

I especially enjoy the comradery of working with all of the other county medical societies. What a great way to engage and work together with other Executive Directors throughout the state.

David Hoff of Genesee County opened the meeting, and current GCMS President Dr. Paul Kocheril moderated the first presenter. Angie Kemppainen Executive Director for Washtenaw and Ingham Counties moderated the second presenter. Patricia Dalton of Kent County moderated the Q&A session at the end of the program.

This Town Hall meeting was a huge success! Discussion is active on the next muti-county meeting.

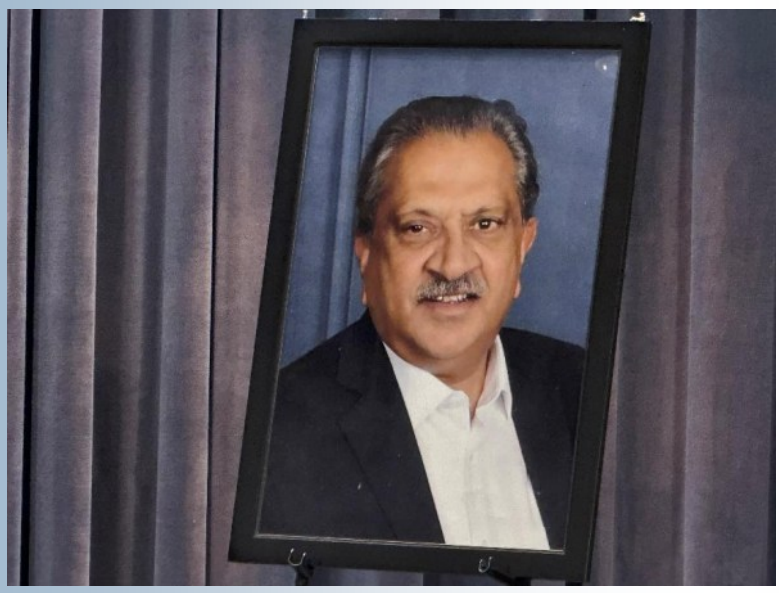
I would like to thank Angie Kemppainen for arranging the webinar, post meeting evaluation, and auto population of the meeting attendance verification form.

Great work counties!!!!

For questions or comments please contact:

Executivedirector@gcms.org

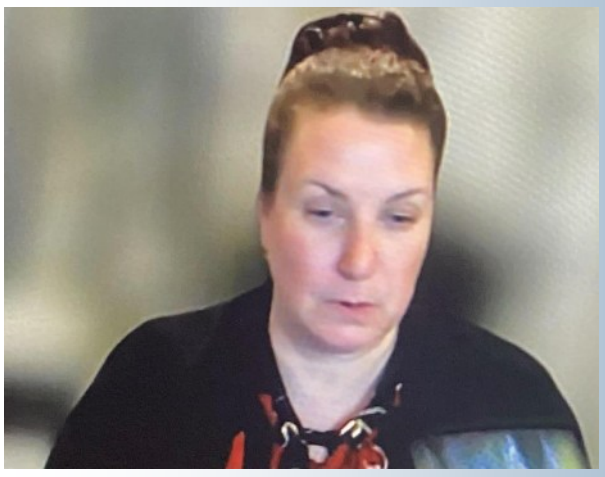
DAVID HOFF, MA, CCP GCMS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



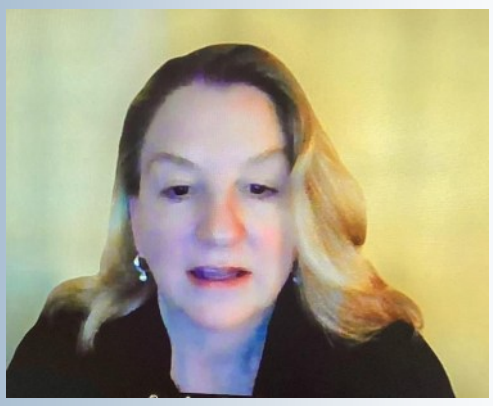
In loving memory Dr. Venkat Rao

GCMS President Dr. Paul Kocheril

David Hoff Executive Director Genesee County Medical Society



Angie Kemppainen Executive Director Washtenaw & Ingham County Medical Societies



Patricia Dalton Executive Director Kent County Medical Society

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MARCH IS …….

JUST A FEW FACTS!!

Nearly 1 million people in the United States are living with MS

Globally, approximately 2.9 million people are affect by MS

MS is three times more common in females than in males

The relevance of MS varies by region, with higher rates observed further from the equator.

A medical condition that is widely misdiagnosed.

Misdiagnoses of multiple sclerosis (MS) can occur due to its complex and variable symptoms, which often overlap with other conditions. Studies suggest that **7% to 18% of MS diagnoses** may be incorrect. Common conditions mistaken for MS include fibromyalgia, migraines, and neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD).

Misdiagnoses can lead to unnecessary treatments, including disease-modifying therapies, which may carry risks. Advances in diagnostic tools, such as imaging biomarkers like the central vein sign, are helping improve accuracy.

What are the common symptoms of MS that cause misdiagnosis?

- **Numbness and tingling**: These sensations can mimic conditions like neuropathy or fibromyalgia
- **Fatigue**: A nonspecific symptom that overlaps with many other disorders, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.
- **Vision problems**: Issues like blurry or double vision are also seen in conditions like neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD).
- **Muscle weakness and spasms**: These can resemble symptoms of stroke or spinal cord disorders.
- **Cognitive difficulties**: Memory and concentration problems may be mistaken for early signs of dementia or depression.

From the AMA

Americans' views of mental, physical health reach lowest point in nearly 25 years, survey finds

The Hill (3/13, Timotija) reports a Gallup survey published Thursday suggests that "Americans' views of their mental and physical health are at the lowest point in nearly 25 years, a downturn that accelerated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued since." According to the poll, about three-quarters of Americans rated their mental health (at 75%) and physical health (at 76%) as "excellent" or "good." But the number of respondents "who described their mental health as 'excellent' shrunk to 31%. Regarding physical health, those characterizing it as 'excellent' went down to 24%, Gallup found." The survey reached a low in 2022, "when the number of Americans who said their mental health rating was 'excellent' dropped to 31%. The lowest figure for physical health was in 2023 at 24%."

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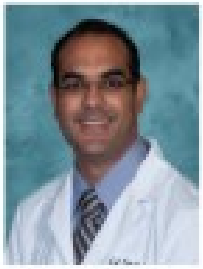

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES INFO

MAY 3, 2025

MEETING INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE LINK BELOW

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Treatment of Alcohol & Opioid Use Disorders: Best Practices for Outpatient & Emergency Settings

This fulfills the LARA opioids & other controlled substances awareness training standards.

DATE: **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**
VENUE: **Hyatt Place, 5481 Hill 23 Drive, Flint, MI 48507**

PROGRAM AGENDA:

5:30 p.m. Registration & Buffet Dinner

6:00 p.m. **NICHOLAS RADEMACHER, MD, FACEP**
Emergency Medicine Physician
Addiction Medicine & Emergency Medicine
Trinity Health, Grand Rapids

7:00 p.m. Panelists ~

Dominic A. Borgialli, DO, MPH
Clinical Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, U of M;
Emergency Department, Hurley Medical Center;
Medical Director, Addiction Medicine, New Paths, Inc.

Paul H. Musson, MD, PASTOR
Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine, Flint;
Addiction Medicine Consultant, Hurley Medical Center;
Medical Director, Flint Odyssey House

Erin McClelland, MA, LPC, CCS, CAADC
Director of Clinical Services, New Paths, Inc.

7:30 p.m. Adjourn

DISCLOSURE:

Hurley has implemented mechanisms to identify and mitigate conflicts of interest for all individuals in a position to control content of this activity. The speakers, planning committee, CME staff, and reviewers have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

REGISTRATION:

Register online below or scan the QR code
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*There is **no** tuition fee for this CME activity.*

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Understand the pathophysiology of substance use disorders and benefits of medical management
- Confidently prescribe treatment options for patients with either alcohol use disorder or opioid use disorder
- Apply evidence based best practices to patients with substance use disorders

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT:

Hurley Medical Center is accredited by the Michigan State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

DESIGNATION STATEMENT:

Hurley Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **1.5** *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The target audience for this Live Course is Primary Care Physicians, Allied Health Professionals, Nurses, and Residents

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If you are currently using a billing service for billing and claim follow up that you would recommend to a colleague, and are comfortable sharing the information, please email the MSMS Reimbursement Advocate, Stacie Saylor at ssaylor@msms.org, with the name and contact information for the billing service. MSMS will then reach out to the billing service to discuss any potential partnerships.

Thank you for your assistance!

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3/4/2025

Important Update: MMR Vaccination Guidelines

We are deeply saddened by the recent death of a child in Texas due to measles, a disease that can be prevented through vaccination. This loss reminds us how important it is to protect our communities.

Texas is currently facing a measles outbreak with 146 confirmed cases as of February 28th. This situation is a stark reminder that measles is still a serious threat, even though it was thought to be eliminated in the U.S. in 2000.

Vaccines are our best defense against measles. The MMR vaccine, when given in two doses at the appropriate time, stops over 97% of measles infections. Our community is vulnerable, with an 81% MMR vaccination rate which is significantly lower than recommended rate for community immunity. This makes it one of our most powerful tools to keep people healthy.

To help our healthcare teams respond to this situation, we are sharing an important update on vaccination guidelines. This information will help us better serve and protect our community during this challenging time.

MMR Vaccination Guidelines

Presumed Immunity and Vaccination Recommendations:

- Adults born before 1957 are generally presumed to have immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella.
- Healthcare workers should receive 2 doses of MMR vaccine.
- Certain medical conditions may require 2 doses of MMR as per CDC guidelines.
- The minimum spacing is 28 days.

Special Considerations:

- Adults vaccinated in the 1960s with an inactivated or unknown type of measles vaccine should receive at least one dose of MMR.

Current Childhood Immunization Schedule:

- One dose of the MMR vaccine is 93% protective against measles.
- There is currently no need to deviate from the current recommended childhood immunization schedule.
- Children can wait until age 4 for the second dose, especially given no evidence of transmission in our community.
- One dose will also help protect against severe disease if infected.

Early Vaccination for Infants:

- There is no need to start vaccination earlier than age 1 given the current state of the outbreak. We will notify you immediately if this recommendation changes.

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- CDC recommends that infants >6 months and <12 years who are **traveling internationally** should receive a dose of MMR vaccine prior to travel.
- Given the current outbreak, we recommend this dose for infants **traveling** with their parents to **West Texas**.
- Any dose given before 12 months does **NOT** count toward the MMR series (0 dose).
- Children will still need two doses following the normal childhood immunizations schedule.

Contraindications:
MMR and other live vaccines should NOT be given to individuals with:

- Pregnancy
- HIV infection with CD4 count <15% or <200m
- Severe immunodeficiency (consult with healthcare provider)
- Certain immunosuppressant medications, including:
  - High-dose steroids (≥2 weeks of daily 20 mg or 2 mg/kg body weight of prednisone or equivalent)
  - Specific biologics (e.g., Humira)
  - Chemotherapy
- Recent receipt of antibody-containing blood products (within past 11 months)

Additional Resources:

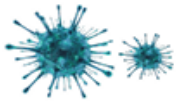
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination | CDC
- Measles Preparedness Toolkit

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as necessary. For comprehensive information on contraindications and precautions, please consult our Immunizations team or refer to official CDC guidelines.

Sincerely,

Michela Corsi, MD, MPH, MA
Medical Director, Genesee County Health Department

Measles Preparedness Toolkit



Genesee County Health Department created a measles preparedness toolkit. The health care providers guide to in-office testing and prevention guidelines include information regarding:

Toolkit Contents:

- Infection control and prevention
- Post-exposure prophylaxis
- How to report cases to the health department
- Tips for phone screening in your office
- Best practices for infection prevention
- Testing, procedures, and reporting assistance
- Sources/helpful links to fact sheets and more

Email jherman@geneseecountymi.gov to request an electronic toolkit, or download it directly from the Genesee County Health Department website using the link and QR code below.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that begins with fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis lasting 2-4 days prior to rash onset. The rash typically occurs 3-5 days after symptoms begin and appears first on the face and spreads down the body.

The fact that 5.9% of school-aged children in Genesee County have vaccination waivers, coupled with 28% of eligible children being unvaccinated, puts us at risk of a measles outbreak.

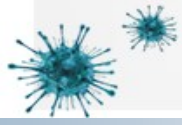
Strongly recommend that eligible patients get vaccinated. If you don't offer vaccinations, advise them to make an appointment with the Genesee County Health Department or, for those over age 3, to visit their local pharmacy.

Website: www.geneseecountymi.gov

Contact Us

Genesee County Health Department:
Communicable Disease Department
Phone: 810-257-1017
Fax: 810-257-3247
Email: GCHD-CD@geneseecountymi.gov

Scan the QR code for provider resources, the measles preparedness toolkit, and more



GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MSMS

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

FREE Continuing Medical Education (CME) for all active MSMS members beginning Dec. 2, 2024*

*Free CME begins 12/2/24. No refunds on any CME, including webinars, courses, trainings, online or in-person events registered for prior to 12/2/2024.

MSMS
MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

EXCITING NEWS

FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY...

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

The Michigan State Medical Society is excited to announce a significant enhancement to the benefits of membership. **Beginning December 2, 2024, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) will offer FREE Continuing Medical Education (CME) to all active members*.**

MSMS aims to support the professional development of all Michigan physicians and ensure access to the latest medical knowledge and practices. MSMS offers a diverse range of educational offerings to help physicians stay informed and compliant with all licensure requirements in an ever-evolving health care landscape. This new membership benefit provides **a value of more than $8000**. MSMS invites you to deepen your impact and become engaged in the dynamic changes taking place in Michigan's medical landscape by becoming a member of MSMS.

Every physician in Michigan can make the most of this *exciting new benefit* by joining the Michigan State Medical Society today!

Call 517-336-5716

to enjoy the privileges of membership in the Michigan State Medical Society.

*Free CME begins 12/2/24, no refunds on any CME, including webinars, courses, training, online or in-person events registered for prior to 12/2/2024.

EDUCATION UPDATE

CME *Requirements*

MSMS FOUNDATION

MARCH 2023

Osteopathic Physician (DO) Licensure Requirements

Each osteopathic physician is required to accumulate 150 hours of continuing education in activities approved by the board during the 3 years immediately preceding the application for renewal of which a minimum of 60 hours of the required 150 hours must be earned through Category 1 programs. Following are other license requirements for:

Controlled Substance Licenses:

Opioids and Other Controlled Substances Awareness Training Standards for Prescribers and Dispensers of Controlled Substances

This is a one-time training that is separate from continuing education for an individual seeking a controlled substance license or who is licensed to prescribe or dispense controlled substances.

Licensees that prescribe or dispense controlled substances who renewed in 2019 must complete training by January 2023; renewals for 2020 by 2024, renewals for 2021 by 2025. Beginning in September 2019, completion of the training is a requirement for initial licensure.

Training content must cover all of the following topics:

- Use of opioids and other controlled substances.
- Integration of treatments.
- Alternative treatments for pain management.
- Counseling patients on the effects and risks associated with using opioids and other controlled substances.
- The stigma of addiction.
- Utilizing the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS).
- State and federal laws regarding prescribing and dispensing controlled substances.
- Security features and proper disposal requirements for prescriptions.

For Medical Licenses:

Training Standards for Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

This is a one-time training that is separate from continuing education. Licensees renewing for 2017 must complete training by renewal in 2020; renewals for 2018 by 2021, and renewals for 2019 by 2022. Beginning in 2021, completion of the training is a requirement for initial licensure.

Training content shall cover all of the following:

- Understanding the types and venues of human trafficking in this state or the United States.
- Identifying victims of human trafficking in health care settings.
- Identifying the warning signs of human trafficking in health care settings for adults and minors.
- Resources for reporting the suspected victims of human trafficking.

Education on Pain and Symptom Management

A minimum of 3 hours of continuing education every 3-year relicense cycle. At least 1 of the 3 hours must include controlled substances prescribing.

Continuing education hours may include, but are not limited to, any of the following areas:

- Public health burden of pain.
- Ethics and health policy related to pain.
- Michigan pain and controlled substance laws.
- Pain definitions.
- Basic sciences related to pain including pharmacology.
- Clinical sciences related to pain.
- Specific pain conditions.
- Clinical physician communication related to pain.
- Management of pain, including evaluation and treatment and nonpharmacological and pharmacological management.
- Ensuring quality pain care and controlled substances prescribing.
- Michigan programs and resources relevant to pain.

Medical Ethics

A minimum of one-hour of continuing education every 3-year relicense cycle.

Implicit Bias

A minimum of 3 hours every 3-year relicense cycle. New licensees need 2 hours within the 5 years immediately preceding.

Renewals from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023, need 1 hour; renewals from June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024, need 2 hours; renewals from June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025, need 3 hours. Then after, every 3-year renewal cycle will need to report 3 hours. (Any hours after June 2021 can be used.)

Training must include strategies to reduce disparities in access to and delivery of health care services and the administration of pre- and post-test implicit bias assessments.

Acceptable modalities of training include asynchronous teleconference or webinars, in addition to live activities and live webinars.

Training content must include, but is not limited to, 1 or more of the following topics:

- Information on implicit bias, equitable access to health care, serving a diverse population, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and cultural sensitivity.
- Strategies to remedy the negative impact of implicit bias by recognizing and understanding how it impacts perception, judgment, and actions that may result in inequitable decision making, failure to effectively communicate, and result in barriers and disparities in the access to and delivery of health care services.
- The historical basis and present consequences of implicit biases based on an individual's characteristics.
- Discussion of current research on implicit bias in the access to and delivery of health care services.

EDUCATION UPDATE
CME Requirements
MSMS FOUNDATION
MARCH 2023

Medical Doctor (MD) Licensure Requirements

Each medical doctor is required to complete 150 hours of continuing education in courses or programs approved by the board of which a minimum 75 hours of the required 150 hours must be earned in courses or programs designated as Category 1 programs. Other license requirements are listed here:

Controlled Substance Licenses

Opioids and Other Controlled Substances Awareness Training Standards for Prescribers and Dispensers of Controlled Substances

This is a one-time training that is separate from continuing education for an individual seeking a controlled substance license or who is licensed to prescribe or dispense controlled substances.

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- Alternative treatments for pain management.
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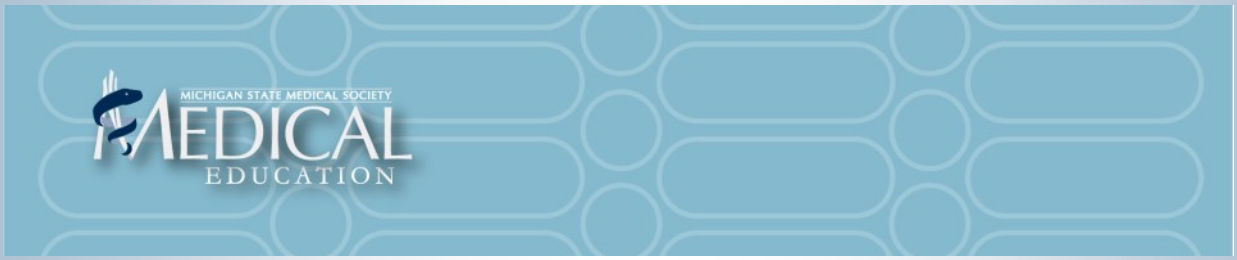
- Discussion of current research on implicit bias in the access to and delivery of health care services.



Cancellation/Refund Policies

CANCELLATIONS: MSMS Foundation reserves the right to cancel any educational program. Registered participants will be notified up to one day in advance if a cancellation or change occurs. MSMS Foundation is not responsible for costs or loss of time that may occur as the result of a cancellation. Registration fees will be refunded for any educational program cancelled by MSMS Foundation.

REFUND POLICY: MSMS Foundation understands the unpredictable schedules of health care professionals. However, due to meeting expenses incurred, it is necessary to charge a 10% processing fee for cancellation of any educational activity. Participants must cancel at least **five (5)** business days prior to a live event. Refunds will not be provided after the five (5) day cut-off. Registrations can be transferred to another employee of the same practice or to another course of the same or lesser value. Please contact Beth Elliott at (517) 336-5789.

REFUND POLICY FOR ON-DEMAND WEBINARS: MSMS Foundation charges a 10% processing fee for the cancellation of any on-demand webinar. Registrations can be transferred to another webinar of the same or lesser value. Please contact Beth Elliott at (517) 336-5789.

Upcoming MSMS Events

Want to stay in the know?

Stay up to date!!!!!!

Calendar of Events

9:00 A.M.

****Via Zoom**

ATTENTION: PRACTICE MANAGERS AND OFFICE STAFF!

Genesee County Medical Society addresses issues of concern for medical professionals!

Please join GCMS and SOVITA in monthly meetings for practice managers and office staff of *all member physicians.*

Please email executivedirector@gcms.org to RSVP,

YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITE

NEXT MEETING DATE:

May 8th, 2025— 9:00 A.M.

You do not want your Practice Manager to miss out on these valuable meetings!

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
Established 1841

&

Sovita®
CREDIT UNION

HEALTH CAN'T WAIT

Michigan's Prior Authorization Statute

WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW

Legislation was signed in April 2022 through the support of the MSMS-initiated and led Health Can't Wait, a coalition with more than 50 healthcare, clinician, and patient advocacy organizations. This legislation puts more control back in the hands of clinicians and patients.

Public Act 60 of 2022 provides prior authorization (PA) reform with the goal of a quicker, more effective, and more transparent process. It does not repeal PA.

All provisions will be fully in effect as of **June 1, 2023**, including major components such as electronic submission and faster timelines.

These reforms apply to health care insurers (and their contracted third-party vendors) and healthcare professionals whose beneficiaries/patients have commercial insurance policies regulated by the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services. **They do not impact Medicaid, Medicare, Medicare Advantage, or self-funded plans.**

Check insurers' provider news, updates, portals, etc. to learn of any new processes related to online submission, appeals, eligibility, and PA requirements related to the law's implementation.

Please review the key provisions below for additional details and requirements.

Electronic Submissions

Beginning June 1, 2023:

- Insurers **must provide** an online method through which practitioners can electronically submit PA requests for any benefits requiring PA, including prescription drugs. Facsimiles do not count as an acceptable method.
- Physicians and other health care professionals **must submit** PA requests electronically. The only exception is for a temporary technological or electrical failure.

Timeliness of Decisions

	Urgent		Non-Urgent	
	Timeframe	**Considered Granted**	**Timeframe**	**Considered Granted**
Beginning June 1, 2023	Acted upon within 72 hours	Insurer fails to act after 72 hours	Within nine (9) calendar days	Insurer fails to act after nine (9) calendar days
After May 1, 2024	Acted upon within 72 hours	Insurer fails to act after 72 hours	Within seven (7) calendar days	Insurer fails to act after seven (7) calendar days
Valid for	A minimum of 60 days or the length of time that's clinically appropriate, whichever is longer			

NOTE: If you are requested to provide additional information, it is important to do so as quickly as possible as the turnaround time noted above will reset and the insurer will be required to make a determination following the receipt of the additional information within the prescribed timelines for urgent or non-urgent requests.

HEALTH CAN'T WAIT Michigan's Prior Authorization Statute

Review by Peers

Puts conditions on health care practitioners reviewing appeals (e.g., no financial stake in decision, not involved in prior denial, etc.). Any adverse determinations regarding a PA request for a non-pharmacy benefit must be made by a licensed physician and by a physician or pharmacist for a pharmacy benefit. If a denial is appealed, the denial cannot be affirmed unless it has been reviewed by a licensed physician who is board-certified or eligible in the same specialty as the service provided. An exception is allowed if finding such an individual would delay a decision within the required timeframe. In this instance, a physician in a similar general specialty could be utilized.

Clinical Validity

PA requirements must be based on peer-reviewed clinical review criteria. The criteria must:

- Take into account the needs of atypical patient populations and diagnoses.
- Reflect community standards of care.
- Ensure quality of care and access to needed health care services.
- Be evidence-based criteria.
- Be publicly available free of charge.
- Be sufficiently flexible to allow deviations from norms when justified on a case-by-case basis.
- Be evaluated and updated, if necessary, at least annually.

Transparency

PA requirements, including amendments, must be publicly and conspicuously posted online within a specified timeline. Insurers are also required to submit an annual report to the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) which must include aggregated trend data related to the insurer's PA practices and experience for the prior plan year. DIFS shall post an annual report with aggregated data by October 1 of each year.

In cases of PA denials, the health care professional must be notified of the reasons for the denial and related evidence-based criteria, their right to appeal, instructions on how to file the appeal, and any other documentation necessary to support the appeal.

Gold Carding

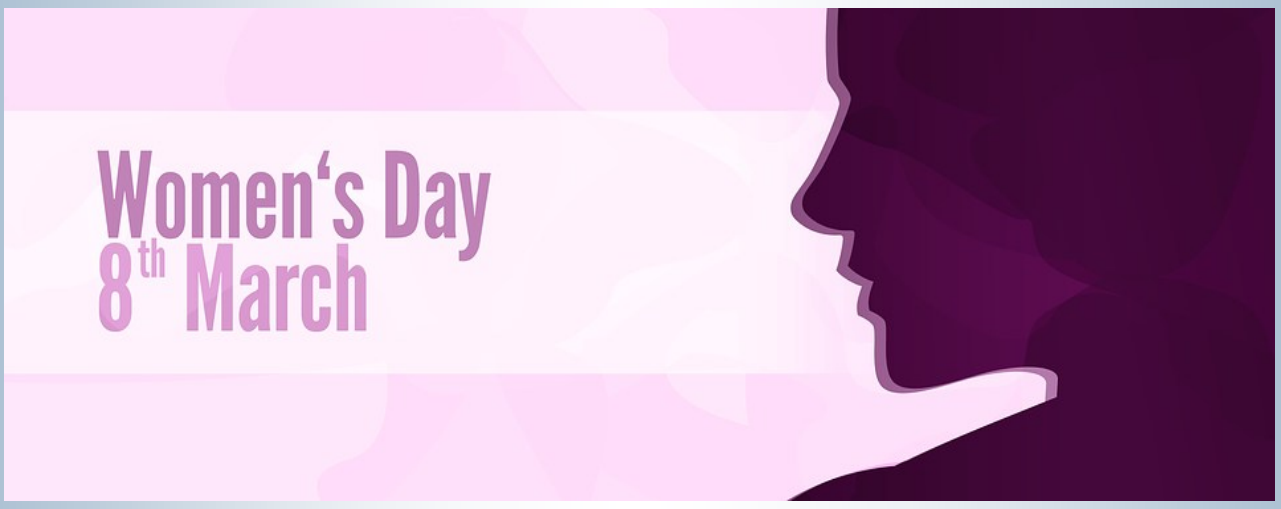
Insurers are required to adopt a program that promotes the modification of certain PA requirements based on health care professionals' adherence to nationally recognized evidence-based medical guidelines and other quality guidelines.

Health Can't Wait is a coalition of patients, physicians, and health care providers dedicated to putting Michigan patients first and ending delays in patients' access to health care:

Allergy and Asthma Network
Alliance for Patient Access
AARP Michigan
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology, Michigan Chapter
American College of Physicians, Michigan Chapter
American Diabetes Association
American Lung Association in MI
American Medical Association
APTA Michigan
The Arc Michigan
Berrien County Medical Society
Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Genesee County Medical Society
Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
Henry Ford Medical Group
Huron Valley Physicians Association
Ingham County Medical Society
International Myeloma Foundation
Jackson County Medical Society
Kent County Medical Society
Macomb County Medical Society
MI Academy of Family Physicians
MI Bioscience
MI Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
MI Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions
MI Council For Maternal & Child Health
MI Dermatological Society
MI Podiatric Medical Association
MI Psychiatric Society
MI Radiological Society
MI Rheumatism Society
MI Society of Anesthesiologists
MI Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
MI Society of Hematology & Oncology
MI Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
MI Society of Pathologists
MI State Medical Society
Muskegon County Medical Society
National Marrow Donor Program
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter
New Day Foundation for Families
Oakland County Medical Society
Saginaw County Medical Society
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America - Michigan Chapter
St. Clair County Medical Society
Susan G. Komen
UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond
Washtenaw County Medical Society
Wayne County Medical Society of Southeast Michigan

www.healthcantwait.org

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



HOFFS
HEALTHY BOOKS

DAVID HOFF
CEO
(810) 407-4921
hoffshealthybooks@gmail.com

hoffshealthybooks.com

Certified QuickBooks Online ProAdvisor

- Provide bookkeeping and general ledger entry input for QuickBooks Online.
- Generate income reports as needed.
- Perform budgeting and fixed cost analysis.
- Offer payroll services.
- Provide QuickBooks Online set up and consulting.

Your Membership at Work

- GCMS hosts monthly Practice Manager's meeting discussing complicated insurance issues in round table discussions with various insurance companies. If you find on-going insurance issues, please reach out to GCMS staff at executivedirector@gcms.org and we can connect that insurance company representative with our hard working Practice Managers.
- GCMS staff helped Genesee County residents with contacts, resources and explanations.
- GCMS Membership Committee has collaborated and has a plan in place to reach out to and meet with various practices in Genesee County. If you have colleagues that are not yet GCMS members, please connect with them! **** A flyer of GCMS benefits can be provided to you.

MSMS Resource Guide

MSMS
MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

For information on the topics listed here, dial 517/336-plus the four digit extension (unless full number is provided). For information on a topic not listed here, call MSMS at 517/337-1351 or 800/352-1351.

JOIN MSMS
Membership
517-336-5716
membership@msms.org

EDUCATION
Rebecca Blake
517-336-5729
rblake@msms.org

HUMAN RESOURCES
Jodi Schafer, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
517-336-5716
msms.org/HR

INSURANCE/ MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION
Diane Wheelock
517-336-7591
dwheelock@msms.org

INSURANCE/LIABILITY
Julie Ozbun
517-899-1457
jozbun@msms.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
Josiah Kissling
517-336-5737
jkissling@msms.org

MEDICAL/ REGULATORY POLICY
Stacey Hettiger
517-336-5766
shettiger@msms.org

PHYSICIAN LICENSING
Brenda Marenich
517-336-7580
bmarenich@msms.org

REIMBURSEMENT ADVOCACY
Stacie Saylor
517-336-5722
ssaylor@msms.org

Alliance	313/408-1359
AMA Delegation	5766 or 5788
Annual Scientific Meeting	5789
Antitrust Issues	5766
Board of Directors	5729
Chief Executive Officer	5729
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• Retired/Life Benefits	5716
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Organized Medical Staff Section	5723
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Practice Solutions	5753
Professional Liability Insurance	517/899-1457
Reimbursement Advocate	5722
Resident and Fellow Section	5723
Risk Management (The Doctors Company)	517/899-1457
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Website	5737
Workers' Compensation	5722
Young Physician Section	5723

MSMS SUBSIDIARIES & AFFILIATES

MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency	877/742-2758
Physician Review Organization	517/336-1400
Prof. Credential Verification Service	517/336-1400

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NUMBERS

American Medical Association	800/262-3211
American Osteopathic Association	312/202-8000
Drug Enforcement Agency	202/307-1000
Medicaid Provider Inquiry, Medicare Customer Service	800/292-2550
MI Board of Medicine	517/335-0918
MI Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery	517/335-0918
MI Department of Health and Human Services	
• Local	517/373-3740
• Toll free	800/292-2550
MI Health Prof. Recovery Corp	800/453-3784

Michigan State Medical Society
PO Box 950 East Lansing, MI 48826 | Membership Fax Line: 517-336-5716

Please email or call if you have any member benefit questions!

CLICK HERE **For Daily Genesee County Covid-19 Numbers**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Data Dashboard for Genesee County

CLICK HERE **For Reporting**

EMPLOYERS + SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:

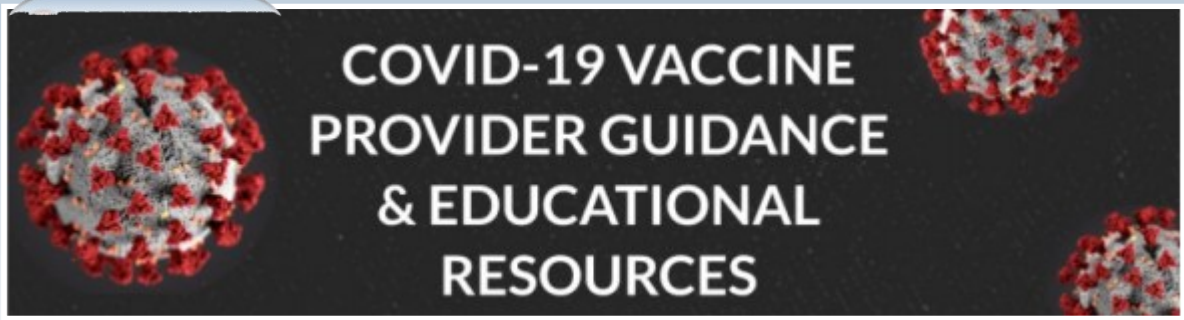
Do you need to report a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 case?

Click the button to email the Communicable Disease team at GCHD-CD@gchd.us or call (810) 257-1017

CLICK HERE **For State of Michigan Covid-19 Information**

Michigan.gov

CLICK HERE



COVID-19 VACCINE

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how diseases without vaccines can devastate economic and public health. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases. In the U.S., there is currently no approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. MDHHS is working with the CDC and Michigan stakeholders to prepare and plan for when the vaccine is available. The initial draft of our state's plan is now available and will be updated often in the coming months. Visit regularly for the most recent information on the COVID-19 vaccine and Michigan's preparations.

COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN

CLICK HERE **COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES**

IMMUNIZATIONS DURING COVID-19

CDC FAQS

PROVIDER GUIDANCE & EDUCATION

NEW BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS!

GCMS can help YOUR PRACTICE meet the ADA requirements and provide impeccable services to your patients

at a DISCOUNTED price!

GCMS is very pleased to announce a relationship with Luna Language Services.
Luna offers a number of different virtual options to assist physician offices with language interpretation services.
As an added benefit to your GCMS Membership, a discount is now offered to all GCMS members utilizing

Luna Virtual Language Services.
Please contact **David Hoff** Executive Director to register your office for discounted services.

Genesee County Medical Society Members receive a discount for language services!

LUNA Language Services

Interpreting Services

- On-site Interpreting
- Virtual Interpreting
- Phone Interpreting
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- Conference & Event Interpreting

To become a GCMS member, or to receive details about this discounted service Please contact :

ExecutiveDirector@GCMS.org

Easy Ways to Donate to the Medical Society Foundation:

The Medical Society Foundation is engaged in a Capitol Campaign. The purpose of the Campaign is to grow the corpus to support the charitable activities of the Genesee County Medical Society. Those activities include public and community health, support for the underserved, and wellness initiatives.

To continue its good work, the Medical Society Foundation is asking you to consider leaving a legacy gift to the Foundation. If all, or even a significant portion of our membership left just a small part of our estates to the Foundation, the Foundation could continue helping this community in so many ways, by supporting the Medical Society.

To make a gift, simply use these words:

In your Trust, "Grantor directs Trustee to distribute __% of all assets then held in Trust or later added to this Trust to the Medical Society Foundation, to be held in an endowed fund and used in the discretion of its then existing board of directors in furtherance of the purposes of the Foundation."

In your Will, "I give, devise and bequeath __% of my Estate to the Medical Society Foundation, to be held in an endowed fund and used in the discretion of its then existing Board of Directors in furtherance of the purposes of the Foundation."

While this is not a subject that is comfortable to broach, it is an opportunity to support the Foundation which supports the Medical Society's charitable activities on behalf of the membership. Please give. You can give via a trust or will. You can give from your IRA. You can give appreciated stock, and you can give cash. Please support the organization which does so much on behalf of the medical community and the patients we serve.

Don't Forget!

Donations are tax deductible!

Please contact GCMS at 733-9923 or email executivedirector@gcms.org

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Did you know that all donations made to the ***Medical Society Foundation*** are 100% Tax-deductible? If you are interested in donating, or if you have any further questions, please contact

executivedirector@gcms.org Thank you!

Do you have an advertising NEED?

- Are you a Physician **and** you are a member of GCMS and you have a new practice in Michigan?
- Do you have a medical practice **and** you are a member of GCMS and your office has relocated?
- Do you have a business that serves Michigan and business slow?

Let Genesee County Medical Society help!

Genesee County Medical Society Bulletin

(ONLINE MAGAZINE)

Your ad will be featured in the Genesee County Medical Society monthly bulletin that is provided to 1,500+ viewers. The Bulletin can also be found on the GCMS website, and is also published through Calameo virtual magazine. (HTTPS://En.Calameo.com/)

1/2-page ad $195/month

3/4-page ad $290/month

Full page ad $350/month

A link to the business website or email can be added for **NO** *additional* fee.

Click here to connect with GCMS, we can provide your advertising needs!

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
Established 1841

**all ads placed by Physicians or Medical Practices must have a GCMS membership.

SAFEHAVEN™
PHYSICIAN AND PROVIDER WELL BEING PROGRAM

Rediscover meaning, joy, and purpose in medicine.

SafeHaven™ ensures that physicians and health care providers can seek confidential assistance and support for burnout, career fatigue, and mental health reasons.

In-the-moment telephonic support by a licensed counselor, 24/7

Legal and financial consultations and resources, available 24/7

Peer Coaching—talk with someone who has walked in your shoes that can help you grow both personally and professionally
- Six sessions per incident
- Physician or provider chooses coach from a panel of coaches

Counseling, available in either face-to-face or virtual sessions; addressing stress, relationships, eldercare, grief, and more
- Six sessions per incident
- Available to all extended family members

WorkLife Concierge, a virtual assistant to help with every day and special occasion tasks, 24/7

VITAL WorkLife App—Mobile access to resources, well being assessments, insights, and more

RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

SafeHaven™ includes Well Being Resources from VITAL WorkLife—confidential and discreet resources designed to reduce stress and burnout, promote work/life integration and support well being for you and your family.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
www.MSMS.org/SafeHaven

To support the needs of physicians and health care providers struggling with stress, burnout, and the effects of COVID-19, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and VITAL WorkLife have partnered to offer a comprehensive set of well being resources and confidential counseling services for their use, SafeHaven™.

MSMS MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY | VITAL WORK•LIFE

Commit to Fit

Commit to Fit provides nutrition, physical activity, and healthy food access programming throughout Flint and Genesee County with a focus on disadvantaged communities and a commitment to forging strong relationships with community-based organizations (CBOs) and residents. Its nutrition education combines the SNAP-Ed Fork and the Road and The Learning Kitchen interventions with the Cooking with Kids program, which demonstrates to residents of all ages how to eat healthily on a budget, how to incorporate produce unique to Michigan into their diets, and how small changes in what they eat can make huge differences in their health.

Likewise, Commit to Fit's physical activity education combines the SNAP-Ed Rec-ConnectTM intervention with Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention classes to introduce residents to a wide variety of enjoyable physical activities for people of all levels of ability and interest. Our health educators encourage participants to be active daily and teach them that even the smallest amounts of consistent physical activity can improve their level of wellness. Commit to Fit also offers three wellness challenges throughout the year where students, businesses, and residents can have fun and win prizes by being more physically active.

Commit to Fit works to increase residents' access to fresh, culturally preferred, healthy, local, and affordable food (or appropriate food) by partnering with the food pantries, food distribution sites, and meal sites that comprise the supplemental and emergency food system in Genesee County. Those organizations, which provide food to our most vulnerable residents at critical times in their lives, receive networking assistance from Commit to Fit that allows them to provide each other with mutual support and resources. This includes the sharing of surplus food, which has the additional benefit of preventing food waste in the community.

Commit to Fit also improves food access by providing all manner of assistance – including grant-based funding and technical support – to CBOs that operate community gardens and urban farms in disadvantaged neighborhoods or at locations that serve them. The produce grown by those organizations is selected based on community needs and helps them provide appropriate food to their neighbors.

One of GFHC's two missions is to improve the health status of its residents. Through the efforts listed above, Commit to Fit meets that challenge by promoting and supporting healthier eating, increased physical activity, and improved access for everyone living, working, learning, and playing in Flint and Genesee County.

This project was funded in whole or in part by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Fitness Foundation. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

For questions or to register for a class, email commit2fit@flint.org or call 810-232-2228

COMMIT TO FIT!
Live • Learn • Work • Play

LARA
LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act/Medication Access and Training Expansion Act and Corresponding State Modifications

June 21, 2023

To all controlled substance licensees:

Most practitioners are now aware that Congress has passed the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act that removed the federal "DATA 2000" or "DATA-Waiver Program," and the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act that established a one-time training on substance use disorder for practitioners who prescribe controlled substances when they obtain or renew their Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration. In light of these changes, which are intended to educate practitioners and reduce barriers to obtaining medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) by eliminating burdens on providers who currently prescribe medications and new providers who wish to treat patients with OUD, the Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) would like to convey the following corresponding changes at the state level:

- The new DEA one-time 8-hour training requirement is effective June 27, 2023. Effective on this date, or the date on which the DEA requires the 8-hour training in the event the effective date is delayed, and until further notice, a practitioner required to attend a one-time opioid and controlled substances awareness training by the state's Controlled Substances Rules, may use the 8 hours of training that is accepted by the DEA for their controlled substances registration to also meet the state's required one-time training on opioids and other controlled substances awareness.

- In addition, R 338.3163 that limits prescribing, dispensing and administering a controlled substance to an individual with a substance use disorder will not be enforced by BPL until the rule is either modified or rescinded. This rule limited the circumstances under which a practitioner could treat an individual with substance use disorder, as well as the number of individuals that could be treated. All other laws and rules, both federal and state, must still be followed.

For more information about the elimination of the DATA-Waiver Program, and DEA's 8-hour substance disorder training, please refer to the following websites:

https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/removal-data-waiver-requirement

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/docs/MATE_training.html

MATE_Training_Letter_Final.pdf (usdoj.gov)

Questions may be sent to BPLHelp@michigan.gov.

Thank you,

Bureau of Professional Licensing
Licensing Division

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Wix | LinkedIn

WWW.GCMS.ORG

MSMS
MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

120 West Saginaw Street | East Lansing, Michigan 48823
517-337-1351 | msms@msms.org | www.msms.org

Application Code: _____

State and County Medical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join MSMS and your County Medical Society online at www.**joinmsms**.org

Join GCMS/MSMS

Renew Membership

- ❍ I am in my first year of practice post-residency.
- ❍ I am in my second year of practice post-residency.
- ❍ I am in my third year of practice post-residency.
- ❍ I have moved into Michigan; this is my first year practicing in the state.
- ❍ I work 20 hours or less per week.
- ❍ I am currently in active military duty.
- ❍ I am in full, active practice.
- ❍ I am a resident/fellow.

❍ Male ❍ Female

First (legal) Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____ ❍ MD ❍ DO

Nickname or Preferred Form of Legal Name: _____ Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Job Title: _____

W Phone _____ W Fax _____ H Phone _____ H Fax _____

Mobile: _____ Email Address _____

Office Address ❍ Preferred Mail ❍ Preferred Bill ❍ Preferred Mail and Bill

_____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address ❍ Preferred Mail ❍ Preferred Bill ❍ Preferred Mail and Bill

_____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Please base my county medical society membership on the county of my (if addresses are in different counties): ❍ Office Address ❍ Home Address

*Birth Date: ____/____/____ Birth Country _____ MI Medical License #: _____ ME #: _____

Medical School _____ Graduation Year: _____ ECFMG # (if applicable) _____

Residency Program _____ Program Completion Year _____

Fellowship Program _____ Program Completion Year _____

Hospital Affiliation _____

- Primary Specialty _____ Board Certified: ❍ Yes ❍ No
- Secondary Specialty _____ Board Certified: ❍ Yes ❍ No

Marital Status: ❍ Single ❍ Married ❍ Divorced Spouse's First Name: _____ Spouse's Last Name: _____

Is your spouse a physician?: ❍ Yes ❍ No If yes, are they a member of MSMS?: ❍ Yes ❍ No

Within the last five years, have you been convicted of a felony crime?: ❍ Yes ❍ No If "yes," please provide full information: _____

_____

_____

Within the last five years, have you been the subject of any disciplinary action by any medical society or hospital staff?: ❍ Yes ❍ No

If "yes," please provide full information: _____

_____

_____

I agree to support the County Medical Society Constitution and Bylaws, the Michigan State Medical Society Constitution and Bylaws, and the Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association as applied by the AMA and the MSMS Judicial Commission.

Signature _____ Date: _____

County Medical Society Use Only
Reviewed and Approved by: _____ _____