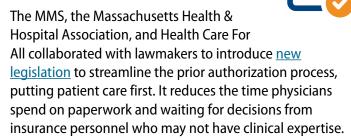


2023–2024 A Year in Review of Advocacy and Impact

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) continues to serve as a catalyst for positive change in health care by supporting our physicians, patients, and people of the Commonwealth. Throughout the last year, the Medical Society remained at the forefront of vital issues and initiatives, achieving significant victories that promote access to health care by supporting physicians in the practice of medicine and reinforcing the health care system overall. Several of the year's most meaningful accomplishments included:

Advancing Public Health Through Policy Initiatives

Streamlining Prior Authorization: A Unified Effort to Prioritize Patient Care



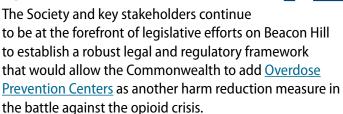
Advocating for Patient Care and Reducing Physician Burden

Through proactive advocacy and constructive engagement, the MMS collaborated with physician partners to successfully secure continued coverage for conscious sedation and full anesthesia for colonoscopy and endoscopy procedures. This effort helped safeguard patient access to necessary care while preventing additional strain on physicians and care teams.

Improving Patient Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care

The MMS collaborated with the Massachusetts Division of Insurance and the Department of Mental Health to help develop elements of the Mental Health Wellness Exam, allowing patients to receive one free annual mental health wellness exam. The Society created resources and hosted a live webinar for physicians covering the mental health wellness examination, the process, the roles of the health care professional and the insurers, and the anticipated benefit for the patient.

Pioneering Public Health Solutions to Combat Opioid Addiction



Spearheading the Response to Critical Public Health Issues

The MMS hosted educational webinars on Mpox, RSV, and measles, providing crucial clinical recommendations and advocating for patient care.



Championing DEI in Artificial Intelligence Technology

The Society continues to raise awareness around mitigating unconscious bias in technology to ensure all patients benefit from more inclusive algorithms. In March, our signature conference, Future Health: Best Practices for Advancing Care, hosted a keynote speaker and featured faculty and editors from NEJM AI to raise awareness of responsible AI and health equity.





Physician Leadership and Engagement

Grassroots Advocacy Amplifying the Physician Voice



The new MMS Grassroots Action Center empowers members interested in engaging with elected officials on key policy issues that benefit patients, physicians, and their practices. MMS members sent 2,400 messages to elected officials advocating for telehealth, prior authorization, and Medicare payment reforms.

Championing the Next Generation of Physician Leaders

The MMS's successful mentoring program provides early career physicians and physicians from underrepresented communities with the opportunity to engage with an experienced physician, to foster career development, work-life balance, and leadership within the Society.



Strengthening the Practice of Medicine

Reducing Medicare Payment Cuts

Congress reduced the proposed 2024
Medicare Physician Fee Schedule cuts from
3.37 to 1.67%, following extensive lobbying
efforts by the MMS and a nationwide
campaign led by the American Medical
Association.



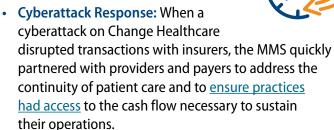
Advocating for the Future of Primary Care

- The MMS continues to address the primary care physician shortage, providing <u>education</u> and working with policymakers and others to develop policy <u>solutions</u> to attract, retain, and diversify our physician workforce providers in Massachusetts and reduce administrative burden.
- The Medical Society, in collaboration with Massachusetts
 Health Quality Partners, provided input to the <u>state's</u>
 <u>Primary Care Dashboard</u>, which tracks the health and performance of the primary care system across the Commonwealth.

Mitigating Stigma and Promoting Physician Well-Being

Persistent advocacy by the MMS with key partners led to Massachusetts being the first in the nation to have every hospital, health system, and local health plan committed to eliminating potentially stigmatizing questions in the credentialing process.

Responding Rapidly and Providing Advocacy



 Steward Health Care Bankruptcy: In response to the uncertainty of Steward Health Care's bankruptcy, the MMS leadership actively engaged with state officials and stakeholders to represent physicians' concerns and provided timely updates, resources, and live webinars to help physicians navigate this unprecedented and rapidly evolving situation.



