

# 2009 Legislative Agenda

## Malpractice Cap

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- Virginia's physicians strongly encourage the General Assembly to continue to support the medical malpractice cap in its current form with no increases.
- The cap protects the health, safety and welfare of patients by ensuring the availability of health care providers and the adequacy of health care services in Virginia.
- The \$2 million cap on medical malpractice awards has effectively stabilized malpractice premiums and attracted insurers to the state, helping keep physicians in Virginia.
- Further increases in the cap are not warranted based on recent claims history.



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

## Smoke-free Air in Virginia

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- MSV has worked with members of the General Assembly, Governor Kaine's administration and key stakeholders to pass responsible clean air legislation.
- Exposure to second-hand smoke is a proven health hazard.
- MSV continues to press for the General Assembly's support of smoke-free air legislation.

## Protect Medicaid Reimbursement

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- MSV has been successful in securing increases and preventing cuts in Medicaid reimbursements for physicians; however, given the anticipated budget shortfall of over \$1 billion, reimbursement rates may be at risk.
- If Medicaid payments are reduced, some physicians might be forced to limit the number of patients they treat, which would leave vulnerable patient populations without access to care.
- In the recent past, physicians went 14 years without an across the board increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate.
- Virginia physicians must fight to protect Medicaid increases.

## Mental Health

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- MSV continues to coordinate the efforts of the Physicians for Mental Health Reform (PMHR) coalition to call for additional improvements to the Commonwealth's mental health system.
- Virginia presently faces a shortage of primary care physicians who are adequately trained to deal with patients displaying symptoms of mental illness.
- MSV supports grant funding to increase the supply of physicians trained to provide psychiatric care through Virginia's medical schools and psychiatric-primary care consultative arrangements.

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# 2009 Legislative Agenda

## Scope of Practice

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- Each year MSV is approached by a number of ancillary health care providers requesting support in efforts to expand their scope of practice.
  - MSV expects legislation to be introduced to change nurse practitioners' scope.
  - Legislation will be offered by the naturopaths to establish licensure requirements for the practice of naturopathy in the Commonwealth.
- MSV is committed to working with other health care providers to assess the impact on patient care and quality before offering our support or opposition.

## Other

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- MSV supports efforts to promote accessible and affordable quality health care for all Virginians.
- MSV opposes efforts to limit or decrease payment rates for health care providers who deliver care to inmates.
- MSV opposes efforts to restrict payment for health care services based on an individual's legal status.

## SAVE THE DATE!



## 2009 White Coats on Call Schedule

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- Monday, January 19** ..... Claude Moore Physician Leadership Institute Day & MSV Legislative Reception at the Library of Virginia
- Wednesday, January 21** ..... District 1 and District 2
- Thursday, January 22**..... District 6
- Tuesday, January 27**..... District 8 and District 10
- Wednesday, January 28**..... District 3
- Thursday, January 29** ..... District 7
- Tuesday, February 3** ..... District 5, District 6 and District 9
- Wednesday, February 4** ..... District 10
- Monday, February 16**..... District 1 and District 2
- Tuesday, February 17**..... District 3
- Wednesday, February 18**.... District 5 and District 7
- Thursday, February 19**..... District 8

**Register online for White Coat Days and the Legislative Reception at [www.msv.org](http://www.msv.org).**