



NEW MEXICO MEDICAL SOCIETY

NMMS is the professional organization for medical and osteopathic physicians in New Mexico. The Society's mission includes enacting just medical laws, upholding the principles of medical ethics of the AMA, and extending medical education, all the while being cognizant of Medicine's unique influence on society.

PROGRAMS AND MEMBER SERVICES

Much of the work of the Medical Society is done through its committees that tackle issues affecting physician practices. Many of the committees also provide opportunities for professional growth, responsibility, and outreach. Members are encouraged to become involved in their areas of interest and work to make the medical profession better as a whole. The Society values all members and provides a place for every physician regardless of their practice venue.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

NMMS is committed to assisting and improving physicians' ability to practice medicine and accomplishes many of those goals through its legislative and lobbying activities. Briefing papers are provided to help members visit with their legislators on key issues prior to the start of the legislative session. Legislation NMMS has introduced or advocated for includes:

- Medical Malpractice Act Amendments (HB11) (2021, SS#2)
- Prior Authorization Act (cs/SB188) (2019)
- GRT exemption from COVID-19 provider relief funds (HB06, 2020 Special Session)
- Defeated Amendments to Medical Malpractice Act (HB629) (2019)
- Surprise Billing Protection Act (CS/SB337) (2019)
- Licensure for visiting sports physicians (SB349) (2019)
- Step therapy expedited appeals process to request an exception to insurers' step therapy protocol; creates guidelines to allow and protect the exceptions. (SB11) (2018)
- Defeat of scope of practice expansion for chiropractors, (SB150), prescribing psychologists (SB90), and registered lay midwives (HB299) (2017)
- Access to out-of-state healthcare for New Mexicans. (HB270) (2016)
- Removal of non-compete clauses in physician employment contracts. (SB325/2015), (SB82/2017)
- HMO credentialing requirements in 45 days or less. (SB220/2015), (SB234/2016)
- Universal Vaccine Purchase Act (SB121) (2015)
- MCO regulations to provide interpreter services. (2009)
- Deduction of gross receipts tax on managed care contracts and on Medicare Part B. (1998) (2004)
- Clean Claims Act (2000).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL INTEREST

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee studies proposed amendments to NMMS governing documents. The Nominating Committee considers candidate nominations for officer positions.

ADVISORY CAPACITY

Opportunities to collaborate with community organizations, to act in an advisory capacity, and to strengthen medical professional procedures and relationships are offered through the liaison committees with managed care organizations, the

NM Department of Health, the NM Human Services Department, the UNM School of Medicine students.

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE FOR PHYSICIAN PRACTICES

- Job Board on website to locate and post jobs locally and nationally.
- Online "Physician Finder" for use by physicians and patients statewide.
- In-house contract review at a discounted rate.
- Guide on Gross Receipts Tax.
- HealthXnet claims billing program.
- Incident reports for Medicaid and other reimbursement issues.
- Endorsement of liability insurance carrier, The Doctors Company.
- Partner in amicus briefs on behalf of physician practices – medical corporations to remain covered by Medical Malpractice Act and no NM jurisdiction over out-of-state providers are two recent favorable decisions.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Opportunities are available for growth and service with the Continuing Medical Education Committee, which accredits providers, and the History of Medicine in NM Committee, which helps to document the practice of medicine in the state. Members and the Society also sponsor NMMS and AMA memberships for all of the UNM School of Medicine students.

ONGOING COMMUNICATION

The work of the Medical Society's committees is reported at the quarterly Council meetings and annual membership conference. Member issues that are not addressed by a standing committee may be presented at the quarterly Council meeting. Ongoing communication also includes:

- "Our Voice for Medicine" electronic communications to include legislative briefs, updates on bills NMMS tracks, surveys, notices on key issues (e.g. credentialing, prior authorizations, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.) for your practices.
- "Noon-Zoom" online educational series offered twice monthly on practice and professional topics.
- The award-winning book *History of Modern Medicine in NM: The State Medical Society from 1949 to 2009* is available to members.