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DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 100

NUMBER 12

NEW FOR 2025

➡ **NEW MEMBER BENEFITS MSMS**

➡ **MEDICARE CUTS**

➡ **UPCOMING MULTICOUNTY WEBINAR
MARCH 19, 2025**

Welcome

DR. EHTIRAJ RAJ, MD

President 2024-25 Genesee County Medical Society

TOP HEALTH RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025



Organized Medicine's Leading Edge

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

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DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME 101, NUMBER 12

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

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4438 Oak Bridge Drive, Suite B, Flint, Michigan 48532

Phone (810) 733-9923

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 .

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Medical Society Foundation Board Meeting

January 15th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

January 28, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Practice Managers

January 30th 9:00 2024

9:00 A.M.

LIVE @ GCMS

4438 Oakbridge Dr Ste B, Flint 48532

Physician and Legislative Forum Meeting

February 3rd, 2025

8:00 A.M.

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

Announcement

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

For details, contact:

**POTTER & ROOSE
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PRESIDENT'S & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Genesee County Medical Society Advocating for Physicians

The Genesee County Medical Society is the strongest advocate for its physician members, in Genesee County. The organization is continuously looking for new avenues to support the membership. This is a tremendous benefit to the physician members involved with the organization.

Each month GCMS hosts a doctor's office managers meeting. The majority of these meetings are hosted on line via Zoom. However, a meeting will be scheduled in-person if there is a definite need. The meetings have a representative from medical insurance providers as a resource and contact for the convenience of our members.

Over the past six months, the Genesee County Medical Society has received multiple complaints with Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical insurance provider. With the number of complaints, GCMS scheduled an in-person meeting for September 10, 2024 with representatives from BC/BS and Stacie Saylor from MSMS. The meeting was well attended with over 25 office representatives present.

The live meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield was not productive. The two representatives from BC/BS did not to address the concerns addressed by the physician offices (reimbursements, resubmission of claims, on boarding new physicians, lack of communication and contact personnel, etc.).

Genesee County Medical Society Collaborated with Stacie Saylor of the Michigan State Medical Society, and devised a plan to address the issues. GCMS collected the complaints from several different physician offices, and provided these concerns to BC/BS prior to the next live meeting. Representatives from BC/BS have been provided the list of concerns in advance to investigate and address at the next live meeting.

GCMS and MSMS will host a live meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield on January 30, 2025. The meeting will be held at 9am GCMS. I would recommend all of our GCMS Physician member offices to attend. Providing a live contact from BC/BS is a tremendous benefit for our physician members.

GCMS will continue to advocate for its physician members. If your office is a GCMS member and you would like to attend the BC/BS meeting, please contact GCMS.

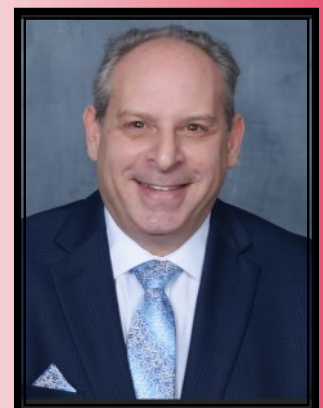
Physicians interested in joining the Genesee County Medical Society, please contact David Hoff.

David Hoff – Executive Director GCMS

Dr. Ehtiraj Raj, MD—President, GCMS



DR. EHTIRAJ RAJ, MD



DAVID HOFF, MA, CCP



TOP THREE HEALTH RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025

BRAIN HEALTH, SLEEP, AND DIET



Taking care of oneself requires a multi-faceted approach: brain, heart, and metabolic health. What research in 2024 has shown us is that improving our health in these areas comes down to three main factors: sleep, diet, and exercise. But how does one start taking action with this intention? And how can we break down such lifestyle changes into manageable steps? In this podcast episode, *Medical News Today* shares three actionable resolutions that can help improve your health in the new year.

Read full article here

[December Bulletin Article - mkeller@gcms.org - Gene-](#)



MEDICAL RECORD STORAGE INFORMATION



Records Management Companies

Desert River Solutions

480-577-3150

Chandler, AZ

<http://desertriversolutions.com/custodian-of-medical-records/>

Vital Records Control

(877) 898-7450

<https://vitalrecordscontrol.com/>

Iron Mountain

877-824-7304

<https://www.ironmountain.com/>

<https://www.ironmountain.com/industries/healthcare-services/medical-records-and-film-storage>

Corrigan Record Storage

Novi, MI

248-344-9185

<https://corriganrecords.com/>

Bulldog Records Management

Fraser, MI

586-285-1937

<https://bulldogrm.com/>

Shredding Services

AccuShred

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www.AccuShred.net

Shred-It

877-537-1427

<https://www.shredit.com/en-us/home>



GCMSA FOCUS ALLIANCE

Genesee County Medical Society Alliance December Update



Happy Holidays to one and all!

As we reflect on the year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible contributions and camaraderie of our members. This December, the Alliance had the opportunity to bring joy and support to those in need. We made heartfelt donations to the families at the women's shelter, providing them with some comfort during the holiday season.

We also gathered for a festive holiday luncheon at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, where Alliance members and the Friendship Group came together to celebrate the season. In the spirit of giving, our members generously brought donations for the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. These items were delivered to the clinic, ensuring they will benefit many in our community.

Thank you to all who contributed to making this season brighter for others. Your kindness and dedication exemplify the mission of the Alliance.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Joy-Dawn Hardman, President GCMSA



PROTECTING YOU. YOUR FAMILY. YOUR LIFE.



MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency's licensed agents can help physicians with all their insurance needs – for business, employees and families. We are ready to assist you in protecting your profession.

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- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)
- Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs)
- Wellness Reward Promoting Healthy Living
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- Errors and Omissions (E&O)

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E-cigarette and Novel Tobacco
Product Education
for the
Healthcare Provider



GENESEE COUNTY
**MEDICAL
SOCIETY**

Cost:

No cost for GCMS Members
(included in membership)
Non-members \$50 payable in advance

Registration:

executivedirector@gcms.org

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Zoom Webinar



Bara Zuhaili, MD



Brittany Tayler, MD

OBJECTIVES:

1. E-cigarette and Novel Tobacco Product Education for the Healthcare Provider due to their ingredients and components relating to the developing adolescent brain
2. Tobacco usage trends and risk factors
3. Different approaches to addressing tobacco use and cessation treatments for tobacco use disorder in adolescents and adults
4. Review and evaluate methods used to combat vaping in adolescents

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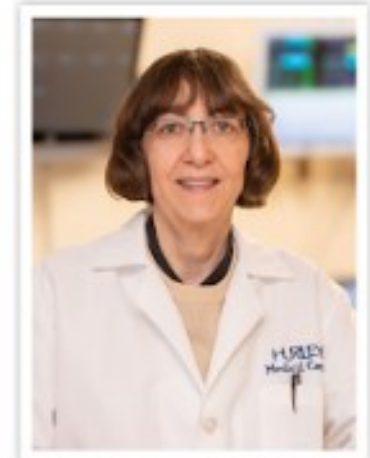
Welcome back Dr. Ivana Vettrai.

Dr. Vettrai brings over 35 years of experience, dedication and clinical excellence back to our Maternal Fetal Medicine team.

We strive to offer high risk patients the most comprehensive, all-inclusive services available in one office setting, including:

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If you have a high-risk patient, please call Dr. Vettrai's office at 810.262.6894. HurleyMC.com



Ivana M Vettrai, MD, MBA, FACOG
Maternal Fetal Medicine

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Adam Howell, DO



Patrick R. Beer, DO

To Refer a Patient to Drs. Howell or Beer, Call 810.262.6024



Kristoffer Wong DO, FACOS



Gul Sachwani-Daswani DO, FACOS



Gavin A. Huber, DO

To Refer a Patient to Drs. Wong, Sachwani or Huber, Call 810.262.6555

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- Cerebral Aneurysms
- Intracerebral Hemorrhage

Neurosurgical Oncology

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Skull Base Surgery and Tumors



Christian Bowers, MD



Johnny B. Delashaw Jr., MD



Marc Moisi, MD

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Trauma & Burn Reconstruction

- Craniofacial Reconstruction
- Reconstruction of Complex Hand
- Scar Release

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- Breast Surgeries
- Facial Cosmetic Surgeries
- Body Contouring



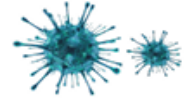
Ihab R. Saab, MD

To Refer a Patient to Dr. Saab, Call 810.262.8360

hurleymc.com

HURLEY

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:

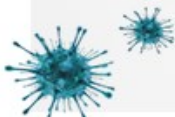
Communicable Disease Department

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



GENESEEE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



**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.

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY...

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.



**NEW
MEMBER
BENEFIT!**

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.

Licenses 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 relicensure 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 relicensure cycle.

Implicit Bias

A minimum of 3 hours every 3-year relicensure 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.

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.

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.

Medical Licenses

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A one-time training, 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.

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- ◆ Michigan pain and controlled substance laws.
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- ◆ Basic sciences related to pain including pharmacology.
- ◆ Clinical sciences related to pain.
- ◆ Specific pain conditions.
- ◆ Clinical physician communication related to pain.
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- ◆ Ensuring quality pain care and controlled substances prescribing.
- ◆ Michigan programs and resources relevant to pain.

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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.

A graphic featuring a red, distressed rectangular sign with the word "ATTENTION" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is set against a black background with a red circular seal containing five stars.

**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:

January 30th, 2024— 9:00 A.M. LIVE @ GCMS

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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.

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

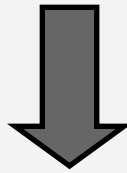
www.healthcantwait.org

From the AMA

Heartbreaking Medicare cuts start to hit home in Congress

Lake Buena Vista, Fla.—About 700 physicians gathered for the 2024 AMA Interim Meeting here, a stone’s throw from Walt Disney World, which is promoted as “the most magical place on Earth.” But physicians will need more than pixie dust to make their dreams of protecting seniors’ access to care come true.

They need support in Congress to back big changes to a broken system that is in line to cut the payments that support doctors’ practices by 2.8% Jan. 1, further endangering access to high-quality physician care. That is why fixing Medicare is the AMA’s top advocacy priority, with leaders reporting significant progress in that effort. Already, a bipartisan majority of 233 members of the House of Representatives has written to leadership demanding inclusion of a positive 2025 payment update for physicians in the year-end omnibus.



[Read more.](#)





DAVID HOFF
CEO

(810) 407-4921
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hoffshealthybooks.com

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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



*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 Ozburn
517-899-1457

jozburn@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
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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

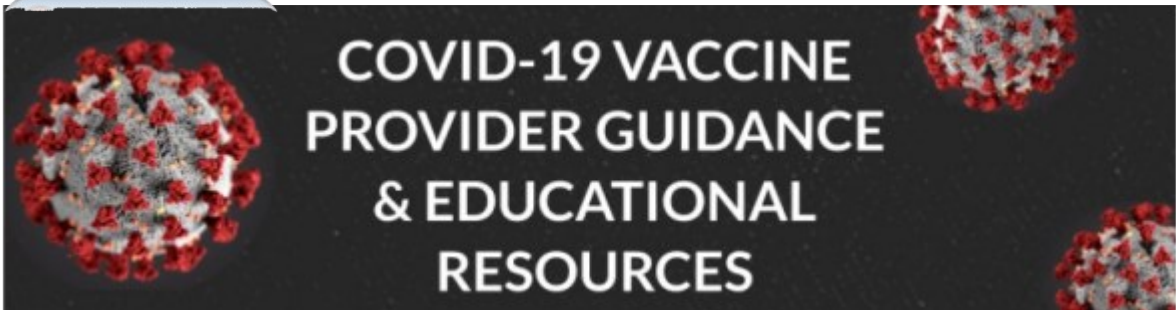
CLICK HERE

For State of Michigan Covid-19 Information





 [CLICK HERE](#)



**COVID-19 VACCINE
PROVIDER GUIDANCE
& EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES**

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!*



**Interpreting
Services**

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

LUNA
Language
Services

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/](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!



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



safe haven™
CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

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.



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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™.



Commit to Fit

[GFHC.January.Nutrition.Calendar.010125.pdf](#)

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-Connect™ 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 [810-233-2228](tel:810-233-2228)



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



From The Genesee
County

Medical Society and the Genesee
County Medical Society Alliance, we
would like to thank you all for a
wonderful year and hope you had a
blessed, Happy Holiday and have a
Happy New Year.



GENESEE COUNTY

MEDICAL
SOCIETY

CONNECT WITH US..

[Genesee County Medical Society \(GCMS\) | Flint MI |
Facebook](#)



[Wix | LinkedIn](#)



WWW.GCMS.ORG

Application Code:

State and County Medical Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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



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