



## OSMA 2013-2014 Advocacy Agenda

The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) government relations group is preparing for an active state legislative session over the next two years as the 130th General Assembly convenes in Columbus.

We will be involved in discussions pertaining to: allied practitioner scope of practice, health care workforce issues, Medicaid expansion, tort reform and health insurer accountability. Other issues include public health, the regulatory role of the state medical board and the state's role in implementing various provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Listed below are some of the major issues we will be taking on in our effort to represent the profession of medicine:

### 1 | Scope of Practice

Team-Based Care, Transparency of Provider Credentials, Allied Profession Scope Expansions

**Team-Based Approach to Care:** Support inter-professional teams managing patient populations to prevent and manage illnesses, based on a model that has physicians in the lead, with care provided by all professionals performing up to their level of training, at the discretion of the physician leader.

**Provider Credentials:** Require all medical professionals, including physicians, to wear a nametag identifying the license they hold.

**Allied Profession Scope Expansions:** We will see reintroduction of legislation from last session authorizing CRNAs to issue medication orders and legislation authorizing psychologists to write prescriptions.

### 2 | Health Insurer Accountability

Senate Bill 136 (129th General Assembly)

**Prior Authorization (PA):** (1) Ensure PA requirements are listed on health insurer's website; (2) Allow providers and patients to obtain PAs through a web-based system; (3) Ensure that a new

or future PA requirement is disclosed 60 days prior; (4) Prohibit retroactive denial of an approved PA; (5) Require a health insurer to disclose statistics regarding PA approvals and denials.

**Timely Payment:** Require insurers and third-party payers to process claims in 15 days.

**Retrospective Audits:** (1) Allow insurers to continue retroactively auditing claims already paid out, but limit take-backs up to six months after a payment is made; or (2) If the insurer requires a physician to submit claims for a period less than six months, equate the allowable take-back period to the time period provided to submit the claim.

**Contract Fairness:** Clarify that a contract between an insurer and a physician can only be amended upon mutual consent of the two parties.

### 3 | Medical Board Reform Package/License Fee Increase

**Processing Time:** Require licensure applications and renewals to be processed in a reasonable amount of time.

**Annual Report/Provision of Metrics:** Require the Medical Board to issue an annual report and to provide metrics and data that measure its performance in areas such as licensure processing and investigations.

**Licensure Fee Increase:** Oppose the proposed increase in new and renewed licensure application fees, absent any metrics justifying the need for more revenue.

### 4 | Medical Liability Reform Package

- In an effort to stop "shotgun" lawsuits, enact a law that allows a plaintiff to initially name a limited number of defendants (one or two) - then conduct discovery for up to 180 days of those named defendants – and then permit joining additional

defendants if that discovery reveals the existence of another potentially culpable defendant.

- Work with legislature to approve Supreme Court recommended civil rule changes to the Ohio affidavit of merit requirement.
- Amend the "I'm Sorry" law to protect not only apologies or expressions of sympathy, but also admissions of fault.
- Abolish "loss of chance" theory of liability.

### 5 | Preserving Access to Care

- Work with the Ohio Hospital Association and large hospital systems to develop state-based funding options for GME and other programs to address physician workforce shortage issues.

- Work to develop incentive programs that encourage Ohio educated and trained physicians to live and practice in Ohio.

### 6 | State Budget

- Work to protect and enhance physician reimbursements under the possible Medicaid expansion and work to ensure adequate funding under the pilot project for Medicare/Medicaid "dual eligibles."

### 7 | Public Health

- Continue proactive efforts to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic.
- Oppose efforts to create exceptions to the state-wide smoking ban in public places.

For additional information on these and other OSMA advocacy issues, visit [www.osma.org/advocacy](http://www.osma.org/advocacy) and follow our government relations team on Twitter: @OSMA\_Lobbyists



## A Word About Politics and Policy . . . the Realities

Many of the above legislative issues will be opposed by trial lawyers, insurance companies and special interests that are not concerned with the OSMA's goal of making Ohio a better place to practice medicine. Those interests will work against our goals by supporting elected officials that support their agenda. Let's not let them win the battle before the policies even get debated. **Please help the OSMA support elected officials that are aligned with OSMA's goals.**

As we have said before: [If medicine is your profession, politics should be your business.](#)

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