

Legislative Update

Making Progress on Issues Affecting Physicians



There is approximately a month left in the first of the two-year legislative session in Dover and MSD has been busy meeting with legislators and key decision makers on behalf of our members. [HB 105](#), the Step Therapy bill, which is the first in what we hope will be many adjustments to prior authorization, has passed both the House and the Senate unanimously and awaits the governor's signature. Among other issues keeping us busy are physician-assisted suicide and recreation marijuana, as well as several bills focusing on the costs of pharmaceuticals. [Read more.](#)

MSD Issues Statement Against Recreational Pot

Eight State Medical Societies Form Coalition Urging Further Research



The Medical Society of Delaware has joined eight other state medical societies in forming a

coalition against legalization of recreational marijuana. This week a press release was issued to underscore the grave concerns the medical community has about the dangers of legalizing the drug for recreational use. [Read press release.](#)

Physician-Assisted Suicide Survey

Member-Only Survey Coming This Week

In
an



effort to take the current pulse of the MSD membership regarding physician-assisted suicide, a short survey has been emailed to all MSD members Friday, May 31. The survey will ask your opinion on the much-debated topic and whether you think MSD should change its current position. Please complete the survey promptly so your vote can be included. For questions or if you have not received

the emailed survey, please contact Mary.Lajudice@medsocdel.org or call 302-224-5183.

Primary Care Reimbursement Complaint Contact Info

*How to Get the Answers to Your
Reimbursement Challenges*



Effective January 1, 2019, Delaware law requires individual, group, and State employee insurance plans to reimburse primary care physicians, certified nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other front-line practitioners for chronic care management and primary care services at no less than the physician Medicare rate. It has come to MSD's attention that some insurance payers may not be meeting this mandate. If you are experiencing issues, please contact the Delaware Department of Insurance, Division of Consumer Services & Market Conduct at 302-674-7300 or email consumer@delaware.gov. For additional assistance, contact Kristie Stewart at 302-224-5196. Please note that this legislation does not

affect patients with health insurance coverage through large employers whose plans are regulated by federal law.

Lyme Disease Webinar

Important Information for You and Your Patients



Warm spring temperatures send children, adults, and pets outside for fun in the sun, but they also bring out the risk of coming in contact with a tick carrying Lyme disease. The Delaware Division of Public Health along with MSD has created a free webinar. This webinar describes the epidemiology (with particular emphasis on Delaware), early recognition, and prevention of Lyme disease and is suitable for physicians, physician assistants, and all levels of nurses. This enduring educational activity is designated for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

[View webinar.](#)

Featured DMJ Clinical Article

Surgical Outcome After Spinal Fusion



Effect of the First Surgical Assistant Level on Surgical Outcome After Spinal Fusion in Cerebral Palsy

► Olesana Abouzein, MD; Maria Aki Pinar Dincer Oleson, MD; Kenneth J. Rogers, PhD, ATC; Fritson Miller, MD; Julianne P. Sees, DO

OBJECTIVE: The aim of this study was to measure postoperative spinal fusion (PF) outcomes for patients by assessing the effect of the first surgical assistant (SA) on the surgical outcome. The surgical assistant is an important factor in the surgical team, however, limited research is available regarding the effect of the assistant's role on surgical outcomes and complications.

DESIGN: This was a retrospective review of 27 patients who underwent PF for the lower spine at our institution. Postoperative spinal fusion outcomes were measured using the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) and the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) scores.

SETTING: A tertiary care hospital, 2012 and 2013. All PFs were performed by a single surgeon and 22 patients had a first SA, and 5 patients had no SA.

MEASUREMENTS AND MAIN RESULTS: The difference in the ODI scores between the 2 groups was not statistically significant. The difference in the SRS scores between the 2 groups was not statistically significant.

CONCLUSIONS: The study demonstrates the value of the surgical assistant in spine surgery in patients with cerebral palsy. However, larger data are needed to confirm the findings of this study.

KEY WORDS: spinal fusion, cerebral palsy, surgical assistant, spinal fusion, first assistant, operation time

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The May/June Delaware Medical Journal featured an article co-authored by MSD member Julianne P. Sees, DO. The article, *Effects of the First Surgical Assistant*

Level on Surgical Outcome After Spinal Fusion in Cerebral Palsy evaluates posterior spinal fusion outcomes for scoliosis in cerebral palsy patients based on the level of the first surgical assistant. [Read article](#). [Read full DMJ](#).

MSD "Spring into Summer" Event

Join Your Peers for an MSD Happy Hour



An event for members of the northern Geographic Affinity Groups has been scheduled for **Tuesday, June 18th**. Enjoy an evening with your friends and peers at the 2019 MSD "Spring into Summer" Happy Hour from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., at the MSD Conference Center. This fun-filled event will feature summer themed beverages and food,

fun games, and of course the opportunity to network and provide input on such topics as our legislative efforts and how policy is made. Come hear the latest on what MSD has been doing on the behalf of Delaware's physicians and share your thoughts on what you would like to see us tackle next! Bring a non-member colleague to share the fun! Those bringing the most non-member colleagues will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card! [To register.](#)

Pending Member

JoAnn Fields, MD

MSD members are afforded a 7 day review period from the date of this publication to comment regarding an applicant applying for membership. Please contact Mary LaJudice at (302) 224-5183 or Mary.LaJudice@medsocdel.org with any questions or concerns.

"*Rerum Cognoscere*"

The Latin phrase *Rerum Cognoscere* translates to learn, examine, or become aware of facts or things. In this section we highlight measurable items of interest in health care from MSD, Delaware, the US, and the world.

\$2.1 M The price for Novartis's new	5% Percentage of new cancer cases among adults 20 and older in the U.S.	Top 10 Delaware is rated in the top
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<p>single-dose spinal muscular atrophy medicine</p> <p>Zolgensma. The most expensive drug in the world.</p> <p>Novartis</p>	<p>that were attributed to poor diet in 2015.</p> <p>National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey</p>	<p>10 in the country for Lyme disease because of the deer population and forested areas.</p> <p>Delaware Division of Public Health</p>
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Upcoming Events

June 13-14 - [Medical Front Office Skills Certificate Program](#), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Eden Hill Medical Center, Dover.

June 17-21 - [University of Delaware's 42nd Annual Eastern Shore Medical Symposium](#), Rehoboth Beach.

June 18 - SAVE THE DATE: MSD 2019 "Spring into Summer" Happy Hour, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., MSD Conference Center, Newark.

June 18 - [Diagnostic Errors - My Role in Preventing Harm](#), 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Christiana Hospital with videoconferencing to Wilmington Hospital.

Aug. 8 - ProAssurance Physicians Risk Management Seminar - [Out of Bounds: Previous Claims Under Further Review](#), 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington.

Aug. 22 - ProAssurance Physicians Risk Management Seminar, [Out of Bounds: Previous Claims Under Further Review](#), 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Virden Retreat Center, Lewes.

Aug. 22 - SAVE THE DATE: 7th Annual Addiction Medicine Symposium, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.

Sept. 12-13, 19-20 - [Certified Medical Office Manager \(CMOM\) Course and Exam](#), 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Eden Hill Medical Center, Dover.

Sept. 13 - [Inaugural Sepsis Symposium](#), 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.

Sept. 14 - SAVE THE DATE: 2019 Heart and Valve Disease Summit, 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Virden Retreat Center, Lewes.

Sept. 20 - SAVE THE DATE: Dr. Margaret I. Handy Annual Memorial Lectureship, John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.

Sept. 21 - [3rd Annual GI Symposium](#), 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.

Sept. 21 - SAVE THE DATE: 8th Annual Psychiatric Society of Delaware (PSD) Symposium, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00

p.m., MSD Conference Center, Newark.

Oct. 5 - [Bariatric Summit 2019: Innovation and Care Coordination](#), 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.

Oct. 11 - SAVE THE DATE: Dementia Care 2019: Medical and Physiological Challenges in the Care of People with Dementia, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Rehoboth Country Club, Rehoboth Beach.

Oct. 17-18 - [Trauma Resuscitation in Kids \(TRIK\) Course](#), 7:30 a.m., Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington.

Oct. 26 - SAVE THE DATE: 12th Annual Delaware Orthopaedic Symposium, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, Christiana Hospital, Newark.



Forward to a Friend

Was the information in this newsletter useful? If so, forward to a friend to let them know the value of your Medical Society of Delaware membership.

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