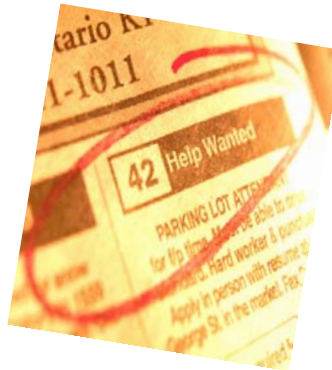


JANUARY 2008

OCMS Classified Ads

OCMS has added to a new Classified Ad section to our web site. This is complimentary to our members only who would like to list positions available in their offices, practices for sale, office space, equipment for sale or services. Please go to our web site www.ocms-mi.org to view our current list of ads. Ads are updated weekly. To place an ad please e-mail - Cindy Dady, Assistant Director, at cdady@msms.org.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Medicare Physician Payment Cut Halted for 6 Months

At the end of 2007, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that would replace a scheduled 10.1 percent cut in 2008 Medicare physician payments with a 0.5 percent increase through June 30, 2008. The bill, which is expected to be signed into law, also extends expiring rural physician payment provisions and the Medicare physician quality reporting initiative. And it extends the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) until March 31, 2009, while providing funding to help states maintain their current enrollment in the program.

The good news is that this legislation will ward off the 10.1 percent cut for 2008 for six months, giving Congress another opportunity to avert a disastrous situation for physicians and their patients. But there is still work ahead to fix the flawed Medicare formula. MSMS/OCMS will continue their efforts to secure a longer-term solution to the continuing Medicare crisis. Visit www.ama-assn.org/grassroots to see how you can help in this effort.

Upcoming Calendar

January 9th

Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30p.m. dinner, 6:00p.m meeting, The Community House, Birmingham.

January 14th

Legislative Committee Meeting, 8:00-9:00a.m., The Community House, Birmingham.

January 15th

Group Manager's Meeting, 9:00-10:00a.m., The Community House, Birmingham.

January 23rd

Delegation Committee Meeting, 5:30p.m. dinner, 6:00p.m meeting, The Community House, Birmingham

OCMS Web Site -
www.ocms-mi.org

Smoking Ban Goes to Senate

The Michigan House of Representatives on December 5 approved a bipartisan measure to ban smoking in most workplaces. House Bill 4163, which passed by a vote of 56-46, would ban smoking in nearly all public workplaces, including bars and restaurants. Your grassroots action helped to defeat amendments that would have weakened the bill.

The bill moves to the Senate, where it will likely face a tough road. **Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop** (R-Rochester) previously has said that he favors leaving the decision up to business owners. This is why grassroots action in the Senate is so important now!

KEEP THE HEAT ON THE SENATE – Use the OCMS Action Center to send a message to your state Senator, asking him/her to support a healthier Michigan by passing the workplace smoking ban.

If the bill were to pass the Senate and be signed into law, Michigan would join 31 other states that already have adopted some form of workplace smoking ban. Also, it would give Michigan one of the strongest smoke-free laws in the country.

Go to OCMS' Legislative page at www.ocms-mi.org now to send your message for a smoke-free workplace.

OAKLAND COUNTY MEDICAL/LEGAL COMMITTEE

The Oakland County Medical/Legal Committee plans to meet at the Oakland County Bar Association monthly in 2008. There is interest in hosting a quarterly educational meeting oriented toward current legal issues of interest to practicing physicians. These forums would be held in Birmingham from 7:30-9:00 a.m. Attendance is complimentary.

To present the most relevant topics, your opinion is requested. Interested members should indicate below the subjects about which they would like more information, and fax this form to OCMS at 248/773-4004.

___ I would be interested in information about:

___ Hospital Staffing Decisions Affecting Physicians

___ Health Care Licensing Sanctions and Investigations

___ Financial Safeguards to Protect Your Practice

___ Class Action Lawsuits By Physicians Related to Insurance Carrier Policies

___ Other: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____



CME CALENDAR

WEBCAST CONFERENCES

January 31st

Billing for Primary Care
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

January 31st

Billing for Physician
Extenders
1:00-4:00p.m.

February 7th

Coding for OB/GYN
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

February 7th

Coding for Pediatrics
1:00-4:00p.m.

February 14th

Basic ICD-9 Coding
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

February 14th

Basic CPT Coding
1:00-4:00p.m.

Call MSMS at 517-336-7581
for more information on these
conferences.