

ISMS Shields Illinois Patients ...



Highlights from the
2017 Legislative Session
of the **Illinois General Assembly**

... By Helping You Renew Your Medical License

This year, every Illinois physician's medical license expired and needed renewal. However, not every Illinois physician received a notification; the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) only sent a single email reminder, and physicians whose email information was not up-to-date in IDFPR's system received *no notification at all*.

Not only did ISMS fill the gap by sending email notifications to all Illinois physicians for whom we could find information, we also offered a free service to members to help them renew their licenses right over the phone with ISMS staff. More than 1,000 physicians called our license renewal hotline, saving more than \$16,500 in processing fees and untold hours of time and frustration.

We also helped pass a two-year extension of the Medical Practice Act, protecting our profession from legislative tinkering until at least 2020.

... By Keeping You Informed

Legislative alerts. Monthly webinars. Issue Briefs. Our bi-weekly *Physician Advocate* newsletter. Medical Legal Guidelines. Just a few of the ways we make sure you have the information you need to navigate rough waters and stay focused on caring for your patients.

If you have a problem or a question, give us a call at 800-782-4767. Your membership unlocks a wealth of knowledge and activates the power of ISMS working on your behalf.

Thank you for your support.

ISMS Advocates for Illinois Physicians ...

... By Resisting Workers' Compensation Cuts

For the past two years, we have been fighting efforts to cut the workers' compensation fee schedule. Cutting reimbursements to health care professionals harms injured workers and makes it more difficult for them to get health care. It also harms employers, who pay more in the long run to deal with untreated injuries and illnesses.

These lessons should have been learned back in 2011, when the General Assembly cut the work comp fee schedule so deeply that the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission had to step in and raise some reimbursement rates to restore access to care.

ISMS is standing firm to prevent the General Assembly from making the same mistakes again, and we've been successful so far. But this issue is not going away, and we need your support.

... By Fighting the Opioid Epidemic

The opioid crisis rages on. Calls for mandates and restrictions on physicians grow louder by the day. Bills have been introduced to restrict first-time prescriptions to only a seven-day supply and require prescribers to check the Prescription Monitoring Program prior to prescribing any Schedule II-V drug. Talk of mandatory CME on opioid prescribing is common. ISMS has taken many steps to battle the opioid epidemic, but opposes legislating the practice of medicine, and has successfully blunted the most onerous efforts.

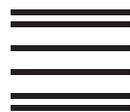
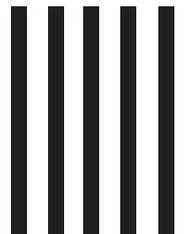
Attn: Membership

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CHICAGO IL 60602-9956

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... From Harmful Health Insurance Company Practices

This year, the General Assembly passed the **Network Adequacy and Transparency Act**, an ISMS initiative that will provide significant protections for patients:

1. **Health Insurance companies will have to make sure their networks meet patients' needs** – that means enough health facilities and doctors, including specialists, in close proximity to where their policyholders live.
2. **Health plans must be more transparent, and provider directories must be kept up-to-date.** If a doctor or hospital is dropped from a network, the insurance company will have to notify patients in a timely fashion. Doctors will also have new active patient notification requirements if they choose to leave a network.
3. **No disruption in patient care.** If a patient's doctor is dropped from the network and the patient is pregnant or has a complex medical condition, that patient will be able to stay with his or her doctor long enough to make a smooth transition.

Governor Rauner signed the NAT Act into law, and it goes into effect January 1, 2019.

ISMS also helped pass legislation prohibiting individual or group accident and health insurance from excluding people with preexisting conditions should those protections be diminished at the federal level.

... From Dangerous Scope-of-Practice Bills

During the 2017 session:

- **Naturopaths** pushed for licensure and authority to provide alternative treatments as primary care.
- **Direct-Entry Midwives** wanted to create a new license to provide home birthing services without physician supervision or adequate education.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists** tried to remove the requirement that a physician remain physically present during administration of anesthesia by CRNA's.
- **Pharmacists** sought the authority to prescribe birth control.
- **Athletic Trainers** attempted to expand their practice to include diagnosis and treatment of *all* patients, with minimal restrictions.

ISMS successfully opposed each of these proposals, protecting patients from those who seek to obtain through legislation what they have not earned through education.

At the same time, professionals should have the opportunity to practice to the full extent of their licenses and scope of practice. ISMS supported proposals to license **Anesthesia Assistants** and to add the practice of East Asian medicine to the scope of practice of **Acupuncturists**. ISMS also helped negotiate responsible agreements with **Advanced Practice Registered Nurses** and with **Physician Assistants**, both of whom had sought greater independence from physician collaboration, and with **Physical Therapists**, who sought authority to perform "dry needling."

... From Public Health Threats

Two bills were introduced this year that would have increased public distribution of **raw (unpasteurized) milk**. Raw milk may contain harmful bacteria that can cause illness and possibly death – particularly for children, who are the main consumers of milk and whose immune systems are not as developed as those of adults. ISMS has so far successfully opposed these bills, and remains committed to stopping them should they arise again.

In 2017, ISMS took steps to increase awareness of **Lyme disease** in Illinois, supporting a House Resolution on the subject and publishing a Lyme disease resource page on its website to promote awareness. We also engaged in efforts to raise the smoking age to 21 and ban carcinogenic coal tar sealants, both of which are ongoing.

ISMS also supported a bill to amend the Illinois Vehicle Code and offer organ donor registration to drivers 16 years of age and older, expanding the registry from the current 18-and-up limitation.

These highlights are only the tip of the iceberg of ISMS advocacy for physicians and patients. For an in-depth look at our activities this year, download our End-of-Session Legislative Update at www.isms.org/hub.

Your support improves medicine in Illinois for YOU and your patients.

ISMS membership matters, because nothing matters more than your career. Your support of ISMS improves medicine in Illinois for **YOU** and your patients.

ISMS offers flexible dues-payment options, including a continuous membership program that discounts dues by 5%, and reduced dues for new physicians. Find out more about how ISMS works for **YOU!**

To learn more or join:

Call 800-782-4767, ext. 1900

Email membership@isms.org

Visit www.isms.org/joinus

Yes! I am interested in joining ISMS, but prefer you contact me using the information provided below to complete an application.

Date of birth (optional, but it helps streamline the application process)

ISMS does not sell or make available its membership lists to anyone. Members receive newsletters, alerts, program information and other communications from ISMS and IMPAC, but may opt out at any time.

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