

## The New York State Budget Impacts Your Practice

This special alert reports on the Chapter's recent advocacy activities that have successfully supported our member's needs:

In January, Governor Cuomo introduced his budget proposal which provided a financial forecast for the State with respect to projects, programs and operations. The Chapter analyzed the impact that the proposed budget would have on Internal Medicine practice in New York State and issued a special alert to members highlighting 5 key areas of concern:

- Changes to the Excess Medical Liability Program (Which Could Have Eliminated the 2nd Layer of Coverage)
- Cuts to Workforce Development Programs (Doctors Across New York)
- Removal of the Written Practice Agreement or Written Protocols for Nurse Practitioners in Primary Care
- Establishment of Retail Clinics ("Limited Service Clinics")
- Abolishment of Prescriber Prevails Rules for Medicaid Patients

Chapter leadership met multiple times to identify and implement a strategy to advocate on your behalf in a very complex and highly charged political environment. The Chapter also monitored the NYS Senate and NYS Assembly responses to the Governor's proposed budget.

NYACP worked expeditiously to meet with key leaders and staff from the Governor's office, the Legislature and the NYSDOH to reflect how these proposals would impact Internal Medicine practices and patient care. In addition, we collaborated with specialty partners, the Medical State Society of New York, the Healthcare Association of New York State, coalitions and other stakeholders to participate in joint legislative meetings and to construct joint letters.

Several of the key issues have been positively resolved in the final budget:

- The excess liability coverage will be continued at its previous funding level
- Workforce development programs are still in effect and will not be grouped together into one pool
- The prescriber prevails language is restored for Medicaid fee-for-service prescriptions
- The increase in the number of physician assistants that a physician can supervise is increased.

We are pleased to also report that the establishment of limited service clinics (retail clinics) and the removal of the written collaborative agreement with nurse practitioners in primary care were not included in the final budget and are left to be debated and acted on their own merits outside of the budget.

This special alert demonstrates the value of your membership in the NYACP, the strength of input by our members into the legislative process and the need for your continuing advocacy.

In the coming weeks you will receive notices urging you to contact your legislators through the NYACP's Grassroots Action Center. It enables members to quickly identify their elected representatives and send them an email on key issues. Access the Center at: <http://www.nyacp.org/gac>

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