

Advocacy

Governor Andrew Cuomo Releases 2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Highlights of Health-Related Issues



Governor Cuomo released his proposed \$143.6 billion budget for the upcoming State fiscal year beginning April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. While there were significant proposals to stimulate the economy and strengthen the State's infrastructure, there were several proposals that will have an impact on healthcare and physician practices if enacted. The Legislature will now hold public hearings on the various elements of the budget, and will then negotiate with the Governor in the hopes of passing a final budget before April 1. The Governor proposed a \$15 minimum wage for all workers, and an expansion of vital infrastructures to include both new building of mass transit capacity and re-building of roads and bridges. In healthcare, the following proposals

will be closely monitored as the hearings and negotiations get underway:

- Reductions in the medical liability excess pool that provides the "second layer" of coverage. The proposed changes would favor high risk specialties and territories which may leave many physicians without this needed coverage
- Limited Service (or Retail) Health Clinics would be allowed to provide a list of limited services and be responsible for adhering to new accountability requirements similar to those of Diagnostic and Treatment and Community Health Centers.
- Changes to the Workers' Compensation Law to expand eligible providers, change certification procedures and make improvements to the hearing process for these cases
- Eliminates existing prescriber prevails rules under the Medicaid program except for certain psychiatric drugs
- Continues funding for Doctors Across New York and proposes a separate category of funding for mental health providers which would supplement the spots for other shortage specialties.

The extensive budget documents have many other provisions, and we will continue to highlight these in upcoming issues of Your Chapter in Action as discussions and the Legislative sessions continue.

Advocates Attend Celebration of Adoption of the Mandatory Meningitis Vaccination Law



Early last week, stakeholders who worked toward the passage in 2015 of the mandatory meningitis vaccination legislation came together to meet with Senate and Assembly sponsors of the legislation, Senator Kemp Hannon (R-6) and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (D-100), in celebration of the public health success. *(pictured on right)*

Stories of lost loved ones and survivors were shared amongst all who worked so hard to get the legislation passed and ultimately signed by the Governor. Personal tragedy was turned into hope for the future as speaker after speaker expressed gratitude for the strength of the coalition against significant odds. The



Chapter had been active in this campaign, and was represented in Albany by Brianne Navetta, MD and Chapter Executive Director Linda Lambert. The passage of this bill serves as a model for advocacy action by physicians, as again and again the power of having Brianne (“the Doctor”) at the Capital speaking at meetings on the clinical issues related to caring for patients and the value of the vaccine was emphasized.

Practice Management

Patient Registration For Medical Marijuana Begins



The State Department of Health on Wednesday, January 6, unveiled an [online registration system](#) for patients seeking to qualify for the state’s medical marijuana program. The program is due to become active later this month, though Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed legislation in 2015 creating an expedited system.

Before patients can register online, they must first be certified by a physician who has been authorized to operate in the medical marijuana program. Doctors must have taken an online course and registered with the state in order to prescribe medical marijuana.

After online registration is completed, patients will then receive a registry identification card in the mail, which must be shown when purchasing medical marijuana at a dispensing facility. New York’s medical marijuana program is limited to a small number of illnesses, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, ALS, Parkinson’s as well as severe epilepsy, among others. The medical marijuana program includes five companies growing, manufacturing and dispensing prescription medical marijuana in the state. It’s expected that given the small patient pool, registration for the program will be relatively small in the beginning.

Also: [Re-watch the four-part series](#) on the state’s medical marijuana program, The Growing Economy.

ACP Workshop: Teach and Assess High Value Care and Quality Improvement Activities

Today, clinical educators are expected to practice and demonstrate high-value care while simultaneously training future physicians to do so. However, many educators lack the knowledge and experience required to mentor trainees in this new skill.

ACP will host an opportunity to gain new strategies to teach, implement, and supervise value-based quality improvement activities in a rigorous way. Participants will be able to earn **CME credits**.

This course is designed for internal medicine educators at any level with an interest in high-value care and quality improvement. Institutions are encouraged to send more than one individual to this program to gain maximal benefit for curriculum planning and so that teams can return to their institution ready to engage in this work together. Individuals who should attend include, but are not limited to, educational administrators (program director, associate program director, clerkship director, fellowship director), faculty with an interest in HVC and/or QI, and hospital quality leaders (e.g., CMO, CQO). Residents, chief residents, and non-physician health care providers are also invited to attend as part of a team.

Please share this with your colleagues and consider attending this uniquely educational high-value care opportunity.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ACP Headquarters
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106

[Register now here](#)

This event is presented in partnership between the American College of Physicians and the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM).

MLMIC Policyholders to Receive 20 Percent Dividend



MLMIC's Board of Directors has approved a **20 percent dividend** for all MLMIC policyholders who are insured as of **May 1, 2016**, and maintain continuous coverage through **July 1, 2016**.

MLMIC's mission is to provide insurance at cost and, to offset premiums, they offer dividends to policyholders when possible. Competitors often promise low initial premiums to attract business, but MLMIC continually operates without a profit motive. Instead, they work to provide much needed relief to policyholders, while maintaining financial stability.

MLMIC remains a mutual insurer, owned by their policyholders, and they are committed to policyholder-first service. Over the years, MLMIC's financial strength has allowed them to pay more than \$300 million in dividends to their policyholders, an accomplishment unmatched by other insurers.

You can find more about understanding dividends [here](#), and you can [contact MLMIC](#) any time with questions.

Member Benefits

Auto Insurance Reduction Course

The NYACP continues to offer a 6-hour Insurance and Point Reduction Course that is approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles and available to NYACP members, their families, office staff and friends. This convenient online member benefit allows registered "students" the ability to start and finish the course within 30 days for only \$42.00. The benefit includes a 10% reduction on your automobile insurance (liability, no-fault and collision) and up to 4 points off of your driving record (if applicable). More information can be found [by clicking here](#).

Infection Control

This NYS Health Department approved training course is easy to use and offers a maximum of **4.0 AMA PRA Category I Credits™**. For only \$50, physicians and all licensed health care professionals can successfully complete an approved infection control course that is required every four years as part of their license renewal mandate. This convenient online course offering is provided by NYACP in collaboration with MSSNY. [More information can be found here.](#)

Education

Weekend Board Review Course

NYACP and Catholic Health Systems co-sponsored event

Saturday, March 12- Sunday, March 13, 2016
Catholic Health Administrative & Regional Conference Center
Conference Room 1A
144 Genesee Street
Buffalo, NY 14203



[Online Registration open](#) - space is limited!

The NY Chapter ACP and Catholic Health Systems are excited to announce that a Weekend Internal Medicine Board Review Course has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 12-Sunday March 13, 2016 in Buffalo, NY**. Chapter members who are preparing to take the exam for Board Re-certification or first-time Certification can take advantage of this unique IM Board Review Course.

- **Faculty:**
Conrad Fischer, MD, FACP
Chris Paras, DO
Niket Sonpal, MD
- **Course Content:**
This two-day course will cover pertinent topics you need to review for the upcoming exams. The topics will include: General Internal Medicine, Neurology, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary, and Nephrology & Rheumatology.
- **Cost:**
The registration fee for this two-day program is \$375 per member or \$200 per Resident member, which includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. *Space is limited and going quickly, so please register early.*

To Register:

- **Online:** [Register Here!](#)
- **By Mail:** Please send a check payable to NYACP or credit card information with the [Brochure](#) to:
NYACP
744 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
- **By Fax:** Fax [Brochure](#) with credit card information to: 518-427-1991

Need additional information?

Please contact Karen Tucker at ktucker@nyacp.org or 518-427-0366.

NYACP's 2016 District Meetings - Starting 2016 with Local Networking and Education

The New York Chapter ACP held its first district meetings of 2016 last week with the **Manhattan District** on Tuesday, January 12th and the **Queens District** on Thursday, January 14th.

Manhattan District

NYACP members and other health care professionals gathered at the New York Athletic Club for an evening of networking and medical education over dinner. Dr. Calvin Pan provided an Update on Hepatitis C, and Dr. Eric Gayle discussed his experience with using the local health information exchange (Healthix) and shared examples to support a positive impact on patient care.

Queens District

The Queens District meeting was held at Il Toscano Restaurant in Douglaston, New York. Jacqueline Delmont-Perez, MD, FACP shared her experience with using the local health information exchange (Healthix) in clinical practice. The National Kidney Foundation provided CME for Dr. Belinda Jim's presentation entitled "A Primary Care Approach to CKD Management."

Other meetings to be held this month include the **Staten Island District meeting on January 21, 2016**, as well as a **Hudson Valley Capital District Education Opportunity offering 3.5 CME Credits on January 23, 2016**.

To learn more, [visit our Education page](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 4, 2016 • The 2016 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting
Westchester Hilton Hotel • 699 Westchester Avenue • Rye Brook, NY 10573
7.5 AMA PRA Category I CME Credits™! • 3 SEP Sessions! • 30 ABIM MOC Points!
[Online Agenda](#) • [Registration](#)

Calling All Students and Residents! NYACP Abstract Competition - *Online Abstract Submission is Now Open!*

If you have worked on a research project or have an interesting clinical case, submit your abstract for a chance to present it at the New York ACP Poster Session at the Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting. Separate poster competitions for residents and medical students are held for entries in the following categories:

- Research
- Clinical Vignette
- Public policy/advocacy
- Quality, Patient safety/outcomes measurement

If your abstract is chosen, you will be invited to present your poster at the Meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, NY.

Deadline: The deadline to submit your abstract is Friday, March 11, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

To Submit Your Abstract online, please go to: [Online Abstract Submission Forms](#)
For additional information, please contact Karen Tucker at ktucker@nyacp.org

2016 Dates to Remember

District Meetings

- **Thursday, January 21, 2016: Staten Island District Meeting**
5:30pm *Healthix Meet & Greet* • 6pm *Registration* • 6:30pm *Dinner and Educational Program*
Fushimi Restaurant 2110 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10306
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)

- **Saturday, January 23, 2016: Hudson Valley Capital District Educational Opportunity**
SAFE Opioid Prescribing Course - 3.5 CME
7:15am - 1:00pm • Hilton Garden Inn at Albany Medical Center
Free Educational Event - [Online Registration](#)
- **Wednesday, February 10, 2016: Nassau District Meeting**
6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program
K Pacho Restaurant, 1270 Union Turnpike, New Hyde Park NY 11040
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Thursday, February 11, 2016: Suffolk District Meeting**
6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational program
610 Nesconset Hwy, Smithtown NY 11787
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Saturday, March 5, 2016: Hudson Valley Capital District Meeting**
8:30am Registration and Breakfast • 9:00am Educational Program
Raddison Hotel Albany, 205 Wolf Road, Albany NY 12205
More details will be posted shortly.

Online Events

- **Ending The Epidemic**
End the HIV Epidemic by the End of 2020
This course is available online at any time and worth 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
[Online Registration](#)
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