

The MSV is hard at work preparing for the 2024 General Assembly session. The Government Affairs and Policy team is here to help our members establish and maintain relationships with Virginia's lawmakers. While MSV expects to track, amend, and follow over 400 bills, several anticipated priority issues already exist.

Prior Authorization Reform

The Medical Society of Virginia is working on legislation that guarantees prior authorizations will not be revoked or modified once approved. The legislation to be filed in 2024 will also extend the prior authorization grace period for patients changing health plans. An approved prior authorization would be honored by any carrier for at least 90 days, up from 30, when transferring to a new health plan.

Provider Wellness Expansion

In 2024, the Medical Society of Virginia will continue to advocate for more healthcare providers to be eligible for mental healthcare protections. Legislation advanced by the MSV will allow dentists to access protected counseling and mental health services. Another piece of legislation will take the first step toward adding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to this important program.

Health Insurance Reform Commission

The Virginia Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC) is tasked to review new mandated benefits for consideration under the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan and other provider-related issues. Because there is no clearly defined timeline for a decision to be made by the committee, there are currently several unresolved issues from previous legislative sessions before HIRC. The MSV is working on legislation to mandate a 24-month limit for all requests sent to HIRC.

Certificate of Public Need (COPN) Reform

The Medical Society of Virginia remains committed to increasing access to care and decreasing patient costs by reforming COPN. In 2024, the MSV is working on legislation to create an expedited review pathway for all newly proposed projects in the Commonwealth. Currently, expedited review is only required for capital expenditure projects of more than \$15 million or more for undefined projects.

Scope of Practice

As in past years, the General Assembly will see legislation to expand the scope of practice in 2024. The MSV anticipates a multi-bill package aimed at reforming Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) regulations. This includes legislation to reduce the number of supervised years required for APRNs to practice autonomously, remove the Board of Medicine's oversight of APRNs by dissolving the Joint Board of Medicine and Nursing, and have Virginia join the APRN Compact.

The MSV anticipates the return of previously defeated legislation to remove the supervision requirement for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Medical Malpractice Cap

The General Assembly has seen repeated efforts to eliminate the medical malpractice cap in recent sessions. During previous sessions, the MSV pulled together a coalition of over 60 healthcare organizations opposing the bill, ultimately leading to the legislation's demise. We will continue to lobby against this legislation to prevent increased costs of care and its effect on patients.

Mandating Continuing Medical Education

The MSV anticipates legislation to be filed that will add additional continuing medical education (CME) mandates for all providers. While we are supportive of training as an avenue to help solve healthcare issues, the MSV is committed to ensuring the standard of care is never written into the Virginia Code.