

MMA Legislative Priorities 2023

Limit Mid-Year Formulary Changes

- Patients should not be forced to change prescription drugs because of actions by their insurers.
- Such changes cause increased administrative burdens for physicians and clinics, and poorer care for affected patients.
- Many patients select their insurer based on whether their drug is covered, yet nothing prevents insurers from changing their preferred drugs (formulary) during the patient's contract year.

Stop insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from forcing a patient to change drugs mid-contract year once they begin a drug therapy.

Communication and Optimal Resolution (CANDOR) for Patient Safety

- CANDOR is a voluntary program for physicians, facilities, and other healthcare professionals to immediately respond to adverse events.
- Patients and their families deserve timely and honest information about adverse events.
- Physicians and other team members involved in adverse events deserve support and care.
- Legislation is needed to protect all communications, offers of compensation, and other materials that are prepared for a CANDOR discussion from being admissible as evidence in a lawsuit.

Increase patient safety by encouraging adoption of the CANDOR model that promotes resolution through timely communication and protects conversations from discovery.

POLST Statewide Registry

- A Provider Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a signed medical order that documents a patient's treatment preferences as they near the end of their life.
- A POLST order is only effective if it is readily accessible to emergency responders and other treating clinicians.
- A statewide, electronic POLST registry can help ensure that information about patients' treatment preferences is immediately available to emergency responders and other treating clinicians.

Establish a statewide POLST registry to ensure a patient's care decisions are followed.

Audio-only Telehealth Services

- Minnesota passed an expansive telehealth law in 2021. That bill included a sunset clause for audio-only telehealth services ending on June 30, 2023.
- Telehealth is not a replacement for care but can be an appropriate substitute for some visits.
- Not extending audio-only coverage would disproportionately impact low-income patients, elderly patients, and patients who may live far from a healthcare provider or have poor internet access.

Extend audio-only telehealth services to ensure access to those who need it.

Recuperative Care for Those Experiencing Homelessness

- Recovery following discharge from a hospital can be difficult for a person who does not have a home in which to recover.
- Recuperative care provides coverage for care coordination and temporary housing during recovery.

Expand Medical Assistance (MA) coverage to include recuperative care for Minnesotans experiencing homelessness.



MINNESOTA
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION