



2924 Emerywood Parkway
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23294

TF 800 | 746-6768
FX 804 | 355-6189

www.msv.org

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Dear Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission Members,

The Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) represents over 11,000 members who are physicians, residents, medical students and physician assistants across all specialties in the Commonwealth. MSV is committed to making Virginia the best place to practice medicine and receive care. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Medicaid reforms and the need for expansion to extend coverage to uninsured Virginians.

In 2012, MSV adopted a policy in support of fiscally responsible Medicaid expansion that ensures that physicians are reimbursed for the provision of professional services at a rate that assures access to care for Medicaid patients. We have been closely following the commission's activities this year and have commented in detail on the Medicaid reform matrix created by Health and Human Resources Sec. Bill Hazel and his staff at the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

As you may recall, in May I wrote to you to outline some of the Medicaid reforms most important to physicians. We have provided our thoughts on these issues to DMAS Director Cindi Jones as well. The issues include:

- Addressing eligibility and enrollment challenges—real-time eligibility verification would help physicians ensure that their patients are able to see a participating provider for their care.
- Addressing no-show patients—patients who miss appointments undermine the importance of continuity and coordination of their care, particularly if they have complex health needs
- Uniform care coordination programs across managed care plans—a uniform approach would enhance continuity of care and promote longer term health benefits for patients, particularly for those individuals who move between different managed care plans.
- Transparent pre-authorization requirements—encouraging clear communication regarding services requiring pre-authorization and the development of a uniform pre-authorization process across plans would bring needed efficiencies to the Medicaid program.

Medicaid reforms will improve the efficiency of the program and make it easier for physicians to provide care to their patients. With reform and expansion, patients will have better access to the care they need in the most appropriate, coordinated setting. Many of these patients are already receiving care in less cost-effective, acute settings. MSV would also be pleased to participate in any discussions about adequate provider networks to ensure patients can see the providers they need in a timely fashion.

We appreciate your interest in the physician perspective on these issues and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell C. Libby, M.D., FAAP". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russell C. Libby, M.D., FAAP
President

cc: William A. Hazel Jr., M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Cindi B. Jones, DMAS Director
Matt Mansell, MSV Director of Government Affairs
Scott Johnson, MSV General Counsel