

# Rhode Island Medical Society Council

Meeting of Monday, February 7, 2011

## \*\*\*Meeting Highlights\*\*\*

**Prior Authorization for advanced medical imaging** was again a major topic of this Council meeting. The Council reviewed and endorsed a draft statement articulating the Society's opposition to the indiscriminate use of prior authorization by payers as a strategy to reduce utilization, notably in the area of high-end imaging but also in other areas where payers seek to control utilization.

With specific regard to imaging, RIMS' statement recommends that payers share data and use focused education to ensure appropriate utilization. The statement will be posted on the RIMS website ([www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org)) and shared with all payers. It will be used to support continuing dialogue urging payers to spare medical practices this wasteful burden.

**MinuteClinic** RIMS' leadership met with the leadership of MinuteClinic (now part of CVS Caremark) on November 23 regarding Minute's plans to install clinics in several CVS stores in Rhode Island. The MinuteClinic executives accepted RIMS' invitation to address the RIMS Council on Feb. 7, 2011. However, Minute subsequently postponed its plans to enter RI and elected to forgo an appearance before the RIMS Council at this time. Thus, for the second time in three years, MinuteClinic has aborted plans to enter the RI market. It is RIMS' long-standing view (articulated in a paper posted on RIMS's website, [www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org)) that retail clinics are incompatible with the Patient-Centered Medical Home model.

**Legislative agenda** Dr. Migliori provided an overview of RIMS' legislative agenda for 2011, which includes three measures to limit medical professional liability exposure for physicians, physician assistants and hospitals; a bill to promote transparency of the medical professional liability insurance industry; a bill to reduce the prior authorization burden on medical offices; and bills to promote public health with regard to tanning salons, sugary beverages, seat belts, ignition interlocks and tobacco. In addition, RIMS is seeking repeal of the medical provider taxes and enactment of tax credits for physicians who provide on-call emergency services.

**RIMPAC** The Council reelected Dr. Arnold Herman and elected Dr. Josiah Rich to one-year terms on the Board of RIMPAC (Rhode Island Medical Political Action Committee).

Dr. Bubly announced presidential appointments, including that of Dr. Michael Silver as Chair of RIMPAC and Dr. Elaine Jones as Treasurer. Dr. Bubly has appointed Dr. Mark Schwager, Dr. Christopher Luttmann and Dr. Brandon Maughan, a resident physician, to serve on the Board of RIMPAC.

**Specialty reports** The Council heard reports from representatives of the RI Radiological Society, the RI Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, the RI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the RI Society of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgeons regarding chapter activities and current concerns of their membership.

The RI Medical Women's Association will recognize Dr. Marlene Cutitar as RI Woman Physician of the Year at RIMWA's annual meeting on May 3.

**Physicians' rights** Dr. Bubly has appointed a task force to explore ways RIMS can support individual physicians in asserting their rights to due process and fair treatment at the hands of institutions.

**Nominating process** The Council voted to authorize Dr. Bubly to appoint and convene a nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates to lead RIMS during 2011/2012. The composition of the committee will be announced by April. The committee will report to the Council in June or August.

[www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org) The RIMS website now includes a pictorial directory of the RIMS Council (under "Governance") and a new classified advertising section for members.