

CONTACT YOUR LAWMAKERS NOW!

COVID-19

Saginaw County
MEDICAL SOCIETY
SINCE 1902

MSMS
MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

CMS Advocacy Talking Points

Appropriations Ask

- **\$100 million** for direct stipend payments to physicians to offset costs that are not reimbursable under the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program. Such costs may include:
 - restocking PPE
 - ongoing liability insurance premiums
 - technology improvements and supportAssuming Michigan has approximately 30,000 actively practicing licensed physicians, this would equate to just more than \$3,000 per physician.
- **Medicaid uplifts** for all specialties during Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to at least 85-100 percent of Medicare rates. Implementation of an uplift program across the board will assist medical practices to increase or maintain their capacity to care for Medicaid beneficiaries when pandemic-related restrictions are removed.

Ask the Governor to Rescind EO 2020-17:

- Many physician practices have seen a 40% or more, decline in patient volumes over the last six weeks. There are two apparent reasons for this – patient fear of contracting COVID-19 in health care settings, and government-imposed limits on the types of procedures that can be performed.
- Starting on March 21, 2020, the Governor ordered the postponement of non-essential procedures, which means a medical or dental procedure that is not necessary to address a medical emergency or to preserve the health and safety of a patient, as determined by a licensed medical provider.
- The postponement of routine medical care has built up demand and needs to be addressed soon. Physician offices are controlled environments, prepared to implement mitigation strategies and engineer business practices around risk of infectious disease.
- If physician offices, who are best equipped to mitigate the risk of infectious disease, can't engage in regular business practice during this time, no one should.

Liability Protections:

- Physicians are at increased risk of liability during for two reasons:
 - Because COVID-19 is a new virus, treating it effectively has challenges that require civil and criminal liability protection for physicians, except in the case of gross negligence.
 - Because of EO 2020-17, physicians have not been able to perform preventive care that serve to protect patients. With the postponement of so many visits and procedures, physicians need additional civil and criminal liability protections, except in the case of gross negligence, to protect them from any harm that may arise from them not being able to see patients for routine visits.

