

Advancing Medicine Through Advocacy



INTRODUCTIONS

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WHY DOES ADVOCACY MATTER?

- Last legislative session (2021-2022), 15% of the 1800 bills filed pertained to the practice of medicine in some way
- Wide range of topics – COVID Vaccines and Masks, Organization of DHEC, Scope of Practice Issues, Medical Marijuana, Certificate of Need, Medical Malpractice, Access to Healthcare, Reimbursement, Telemedicine, Medical Ethics and Diversity, Abortion, Healthcare Loan Forgiveness Programs, Budget
- Legislation impacts access to care for patients, safety of care for patients, reimbursement for care, maintaining independence to practice, incentivizing physicians to practice in SC



SAMPLING OF BILLS IMPACTING ONCOLOGY FROM 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Certificate of Need
- Telemedicine
- Expedited Review of Denials for Imaging for Stage-Four Metastatic Cancer
- Certified Medical Assistants



CERTIFICATE OF NEED

- Requires persons and healthcare facilities to ask government permission to build healthcare facilities and add services
- Has been around since the 1970s and supposed to promote cost containment, prevent unnecessary duplication of health care facilities, and guide establishment but failed public policy
- Applies to, among other things, diagnostic equipment over \$600,000, capital expenditures by health care facilities over \$2 million, construction or establishment of ambulatory surgery center and radiation therapy facilities
- Repeal CON to improve access and reduce healthcare costs for patients and insurers



TELEMEDICINE

- Prior to COVID, oncology had a very low utilization rate of telemedicine.
- BCBS had a total of 39 oncology/hematology telemedicine claims in 2019, but 4,800 in 2020 and 4,300 for 2021.
- Unofficially, MUSC peaked at around 28% of cancer care delivered via telemedicine but has declined dramatically.
- Appropriations Act (Part 1B, Section 117, X900 General Provisions 117.116 S.C. Telemedicine Network) for 2022-2023 requires DHHS to transfer \$5M to MUSC Hospital Authority for the SC Telemedicine Network
 - \$1M must be allocated to Palmetto Care Connections and other hospitals.
- Parity will remain an issue.
- OIG scrutiny mandates compliance.



EXPEDITED REVIEW

- Began as a bill to prevent health benefit plans from excluding coverage of a drug for stage four, advanced metastatic cancer approved by the FDA by mandating that the insured must first be required to fail to respond successfully to a different drug
- Passed as a law to allow a covered person the right to an expedited external review for denial of prior authorization or claim for a recognized diagnostic imaging service for a covered person's stage four advanced metastatic cancer based upon an adverse medical necessity determination



CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

[S. 613](#) (Act 171) became effective 7/15/2022.

- Defines “certified medical assistant”;
- Provides a 2-year grandfather period for current medical assistants;
- Distinguishes “CMA” from UAP;
- Prohibits certain delegated tasks;
- Requires PA or APRN to have delegable authority in scope of practice guideline or written practice agreement;

Requires badge.

A row of white paper cutouts of human figures holding hands, set against a green background. The figures are arranged in a line, with the central figure in the foreground being more prominent and in focus, while the others recede into the background.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Certificate of Need
- Reimbursement Issues
- Coverage/Access
- Regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers



GETTING INVOLVED

- Engage Lobbyist for SCOS and SCMA
- Bring Issues to the SCMA Inter-Specialty Council
- Testify before House and Senate Sub-Committees
- Appear in the Lobby of the Statehouse
- Attend Physicians Day at the Statehouse
- Volunteer as Doctor of the Day at Statehouse
- Write Op-Eds
- Use Social Media
- Get to Know Local Legislators and Call Legislators
- Gather Data and Patient Examples
- Share Ideas with SCOS Policy Council Members

A photograph of a classroom where several students have their hands raised. The background is a green chalkboard. The word "QUESTIONS?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center of the image. The hands are in various positions, some fully open and some partially raised, indicating an interactive learning environment.

QUESTIONS?



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