



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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To: MSSNY Board of Trustees
MSSNY Council

From: Philip Schuh, CPA, MS
Executive Vice President

Date: July 8, 2015

Subject: Meeting of State Coalition

A telephone conference call of the State Coalition was held on Tuesday evening, July 7, 2015.

Participating from MSSNY were:

Robert Hughes, MD, FACS, MSSNY's Physician Leader Representative
Philip Schuh, CPA, MS, MSSNY's Executive Vice President
Moe Auster, Esq., MSSNY's Vice President Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

Representatives from the other nine (9) states comprising the Coalition were on the call, along with Mr. Larry Meyers, the Coalition lobbyist from the firm of Meyers and Associates.

The first topic discussed was the just announced modifications to the ICD-10 implementation. Mr. Meyers was asked for the Hill perspective. He responded that in his discussions with various Committee staffers, they all seemed surprised by the CMS announcement corresponding to the program rollout revisions. He indicated that they stated that since CMS might have presumed that some legislation dealing with the program could have been forthcoming, CMS attempted to head that off by offering these proposed implementation changes.

Further comments that he received were that the announcement itself from CMS was strange, in that it was shared with an "AMA" byline. Presumably that was rather unusual for an agency to offer a press release in that fashion. Some surmised that it was possible payback for AMA support of Obamacare. He did indicate, however, that those comments came from the republican side.

He suggested that the Coalition needs to follow up with letters to both CMS and to Congress about taking action to implement all of the proposed adjustments to implementation. He stressed that it is a wide difference between suggested changes and writing the regulations to get it done. Obviously, the details for these issues have not been developed and the Coalition is the ideal group to continue oversight to ensure that it gets done.

The group then discussed a possible Hill visit to make these points with the congressional representatives of the various States. Mr. Meyers indicated that Congress is in session through the end of this month. We will try to see if a visit can be arranged for either the week of the 19th or the 26th, based on everyone's availability.

The group then discussed other issues of concern among Coalition states. The Physician Leader from Texas raised the issue of Physician owned hospitals. Dr. Hughes raised concern over the lack of movement on the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act, sponsored by Congressman Price. Robert Seligson, the CEO of the North Carolina Medical Society and current President of the Physician's Advocacy Institute (PAI) told the group that the PAI is focused on getting legislation introduced dealing with the RAC audits. He stated that he had Congressman George Holding from North Carolina sponsoring it. The other major issue of attention to the PAI was the issue of "Site of Service" reimbursement differentials.

One last item of interest to the group for possible further discussion and support is the status of the Two Midnight Rule.

Mr. Meyers indicated that the strength of the Coalition is that the participants could all visit their own congressional representatives and indicate their support for these issues among the group in order to urge additional sponsorship for the related bills.