

## **Governor Proposes \$175 Billion Budget for 2019-20**

This week, Governor Andrew Cuomo formally announced his proposed \$175 Billion Budget for the FY 2019-20 Fiscal Year that would close a \$3 billion Budget deficit. The Budget contains \$1.3 Billion in revenue actions, including a 5 year extension of the surcharge on high earners.

### **Some positive items include:**

- Increase from 18-21 the legal age to purchase tobacco and e-cigarettes; Ban flavored liquids and sales in pharmacies (See Dr. Madejski's statement of support here: <http://www.mssnyenews.org/press-releases/mssny-statement-on-tobacco-purchase-age/#tob>)
- Regulate the practices of Pharmaceutical Benefit Managers (PBMs)
- Assuring comprehensive health insurance coverage for those suffering from a mental health condition (MH, SUD or autism)
- Prohibit pre-authorization for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to address opioid addiction
- Extension of the Excess Medical Malpractice Program for an additional policy year;
- Reduce the current 9% interest rate on court judgments
- Require Medicaid to cover services under the National Diabetes Prevention Programs for individuals diagnosed with prediabetes.
- Expand health insurance coverage for IVF;
- Create a statewide Maternal Mortality Board with confidentiality protections

### **Some items of potentially significant concern include:**

- Legalize the sale of recreational marijuana to those 21 and over, The Governor would create an Office of Cannabis Management to oversee program. Municipalities would be able to opt out of sales in their local jurisdictions. The program is expected to generate \$300 million in annual revenue.
- Create a new "Medical Cannabis" program for patients who have a "serious health condition"
- Permit PAs, NPs, social workers, acupuncturists and licensed social workers to treat injured workers under Workers Compensation;
- Repeal "prescriber prevails" protections for prescriptions for Medicaid FFS patients that are not on the Medicaid formulary
- Eliminate Medicaid coverage for deductibles of "dual eligible" patients

**Some items of Interest and Further Review Include:**

- Codify New York's Health Insurance Exchange, and assure NY has continued coverage for pre-existing conditions, Essential Health Benefits and easy way to appeal medications not included on insurers' formulary
- Require ED physicians to check I-STOP database;
- Launch a comprehensive education and training program to reduce implicit racial bias in health care facilities statewide
- Launch an uterine fibroid and endometriosis research and public outreach campaign
- Encourage more prescribers to become designated buprenorphine prescribers by directing OASAS, OMH and DOH to oversee implementation of statewide learning collaborative;
- Make \$5 million available to regional perinatal centers and other health care providers to expand their telehealth capabilities in rural communities;
- Create a Commission on Universal Access to Health Care comprised of health policy and insurance experts to devise ways to achieve universal access to high quality, affordable health care;

Staff is continuing to pore through the thousands of pages of Executive Budget legislation and will provide further detailed updates.