

Draft Minutes
Committee on Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
Wednesday May 12, 2021
2pm via Zoom

Present

Maria A. Basile, MD– Vice Chair
Clare B. Bradley, MD – Chair
Aimana Elbahtity
Julia Barber Faller, DO
Patricia J. Gagliano, MD
Victor Robert Klein, MD
Roy J. Korn, MD
Thomas T. Lee, MD
John R. Maese, MD
Parag Mehta, MD
Lawrence Aron Melniker, MD
Barry Rabin, MD
Rifka Chaya Schulman, MD
Natalie Star Schwartz, MD

Staff

Moe Auster, Esq., Sr. VP. Division of Government Affairs
Pat Clancy, Sr. VP. Public Health and Education
Zina Cary, Division of Government Affairs
Raza Ali, Division of Government Affairs
Becky Dawes, Division of Government Affairs

Absent

Keisha Benn, MD
Brian Blaubeux, MD
Kenneth H. Eckhert III, MD
Liana H. Leung, MD
Daniel Jules Nicoll, MD
Willie Underwood, MD
Charles E. Wiles III, MD
Arthur J. Wise Jr., MD

Excused

Gregory L. Pinto, MD

Invited Guests

Parag Mehta, MD, President - Elect
Troy Oechsner, Executive Vice President

- 1) **Welcome** – Roll call of members and welcomed guests.
- 2) **Adoption of Minutes** – January 27, 2021 minutes approved.
- 3) **Referral from MSSNY Council on 2020 HOD RESOLUTION 67**– Mr. Auster indicated the recommendation that the reference committee had made at the House of Delegates had been to reaffirm existing MSSNY policies. One of these policies is that there should be more than one pathway to achieve re-certification so it does not interfere with physician opportunity to participate with insurance companies or maintain hospital privileges. The other to encourage the ABMS to work with other societies to find the pathways in physician competency in pursuit of lifelong learning. The policy calls upon MSSNY to ask the state to pass legislation that would prohibit insurance companies and hospitals from requiring ongoing board certification as a condition for a hospital medical staff privileges, insurance contracts, and state licensure. In addition to re-affirmation of the existing policies, Mr. Auster asked for an additional resolved to continue to work with the American Medical Association, state medical associations, and specialty societies in advocating to ensure that requirements for maintaining board certification are not excessive in scope and are rationally related to ensuring ongoing physician competency in that specialty. The committee voted to approve the resolution.
- 4) **Discussion of Impact COVID-19 Had on Nursing Homes** – Mr. Auster indicated that bill, S.598, the “Reimaging Long Term Care Commission” was passed because of what happened last year with Covid patients returning to the nursing homes after they recovered. The Department of Health had released a statement saying the nursing

26 homes could either except or deny the patient but denying would mean loss of
27 Medicaid money. The bill has gone through many different forms and initially had no
28 physician representatives. Now the bill calls for representatives from the New York
29 Medical Directors Association and the NY Chapter of the American College of
30 Physicians Geriatrics Committee. The bill passed both house, Assembly and Senate,
31 it has not been delivered to the Governor.

32 5) **Telehealth Discussion** – Zina Cary indicated that MSSNY had advocated for a
33 provision in the State Budget that would provide payment parity for telehealth
34 services, but it was not included in the final adopted Budget. However, the negative
35 language relative to network adequacy was also taken out. If that language was kept
36 in, it could have left out community-based physicians from being able to participate
37 in telehealth services otherwise required to be covered by health insurance plans. A
38 new piece of legislation has been introduced to both chambers, Senate bill number
39 S.5505 sponsored by Senator Rivera and Senator Harkham. We are trying to get the
40 bill passed in the Senate before the end of session. There has not been support in
41 the Assembly Insurance committee on this bill.

42
43 6) **COVID -19 Vaccine Discussion** – Ms. Clancy indicated that in just three months,
44 vaccines are getting to mass vaccination sites and physician offices across the state.
45 The vaccine is now going to be available to children between the ages of 12 – 15.
46 The NYS DOH commissioner had a webinar regarding the need for physicians to be
47 involved in getting vaccine to their patients and helping to address vaccine
48 hesitancy. For a provider to be a Covid-19 vaccine provider you must be a member
49 of the NYSIIS system. According to the governor, about 60% of the adult population
50 have received at least one vaccine and about 35% who have completed the series.

51
52 7) **2021 HOD Resolutions** – It was indicated that if the committee wanted to submit
53 any resolutions to the house, they need to be in by June 25th.

54
55 8) **2021 Meetings** –October 27, 2021