

Medical Society of the State of New York

Report of the 9th District Branch
November 5, 2020

Thomas T. Lee, MD, Councilor

The Medical Society of the State of New York's 9th District Branch is comprised of the following county medical societies: Dutchess; Orange; Putnam; Rockland and Westchester.

Below is the Report of Activities within the 9th District Branch of MSSNY as reported by County:

Dutchess County Medical Society (DCMS)

Putnam County Medical Society (PCMS)

Westchester County Medical Society (WCMS)

- On September 23 & 30 WCMS hosted its legislative meetings via Zoom. We invited all candidates to speak for an allotted amount of time and provided topics for discussion prior to the meeting. We had many state legislators and candidates participate. All members will be invited to join. The following legislators and candidates participated:
 - Stephanie Keegan (Assembly District 94)
 - Senator Shelley Mayer
 - Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
 - Assemblyman Tom Abinanti
 - Assemblywoman Amy Paulin
 - Assemblyman Kevin Byrne
 - Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
 - Senator Alessandra Biaggi
 - Senator Pete Harckham
 - Assemblyman Steve Otis
 - Rob Astorino (Senate District 40)

The following topics were discussed:

- Liability - New requirement to post OPMC number in offices. Reinstating Limitations of liability related to COVID.
- PPE - NYS pipeline for obtaining and distributing supplies. Mandating insurance carriers cover increase office costs related to COVID
- Testing - Further support for widespread availability of testing. Enforcement of no patient copay/deductibles for testing and COVID related care.
- Scope of practice - reinstating safeguards for non physicians practicing unsupervised and outside their scope of license
- Disruption of routine care - programs to encourage return to preventive care - childhood vaccinations, screening exams.
- Reduction of administrative burden (government and insurance)

- Securing additional federal and state funding sources for physician practices due to practice interruption.
- Physician collective negotiation
- WCMS will reopen discussion with White Plains Hospital regarding the group membership that we have been working on for several years. This would bring on over 800 new members to MSSNY and WCMS and we are excited to begin discussion on how we can move forward. We will inform MSSNY of any progress.
- The WCMS BOD met via Zoom on Thursday, September 10 to discuss membership initiatives; OPMC regulations (the new signage required in all offices); legislative topics of concern and general updates for the county.
- WCMS staff continues to provide advice and information on a daily basis to members regarding PPE, PPP loans, EIDL, reopening practices and all things COVID related. We will continue to provide any information as it becomes available.

Rockland County Medical Society (RCMS)

Orange County Medical Society (OCMS)