

DOCTOR OF THE DAY PROGRAM INFORMATION

HISTORY

The Doctor of the Day Program was founded in the 1960s by a former Florida House member, Representative Walter Sackett, M.D., from Miami. Representative Sackett encouraged the Florida Medical Association to bring a physician to Tallahassee each day of the Regular Session. This program, which is administered by the Legislative Clinic, delivers a vital professional service to the members of the Florida Legislature and all legislative employees. The physicians of Florida have provided this important voluntary public service each year since the program's inception.

HOTEL AND PARKING

Physicians are responsible for their own hotel reservations and costs associated with participating as Doctor of the Day and are encouraged to arrange their hotel accommodations as soon as possible since hotels book quickly as session approaches. Please be aware that downtown parking is extremely scarce. For this reason, the DoubleTree Hotel is recommended based on its close proximity to the Capitol and parking garage for hotel guests. A list of local hotels near the Capitol and *Tallahassee Downtown Public Parking Guide* is provided to assist in identifying accommodations.

YOUR ROLE AS DOCTOR OF THE DAY

Physicians serving as Doctor of the Day should bring their prescription pads and DEA numbers and arrive at the Legislative Clinic at approximately 8:00 – 8:30 a.m., Room 313 of the Capitol. Dress code for the Doctor of the Day is business attire; coat and tie are required for gentlemen.

The clinic nurses will brief physicians on the legislative activities for the day. Physicians should plan to be available until 4:00 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. On Fridays, physicians may be released from their duties after the noon hour. Senate schedules are always subject to change and scheduled daily sittings may be cancelled at any time.

During the first few weeks of session, Mondays and Fridays are often used as travel days for Senators; therefore, it is possible that there will not be any scheduled committee meetings or full session. If physicians have chosen to serve as Doctor of the Day on a Monday or Friday, these days may be slower in terms of activity.

ACTIVITIES

During a sitting, the Doctor of the Day will be introduced by the Senate President, therefore, it is very important that the scheduled physician is in the Senate Chamber floor 15 minutes prior to session beginning. The Doctor of the Day will be escorted to the Senate Chamber by Legislative Clinic staff. The clinic will provide the physician with a "Doctor of the Day" badge which will serve as a pass to enter the chamber. The Doctor of the Day may sit with his or her Senator. It is important to note that the Doctor of the Day must observe the rules of the Senate, which include a prohibition against lobbying or in any way attempting to influence legislators' opinions while guests of the Senate Chamber.

If the Senate is not in session, the Doctor of the Day is free to attend committee meetings, visit legislators' offices, and explore the Capitol grounds. If away from the clinic, the Doctor of the Day may be called on his or her cellphone to see patients. In the event of an emergency, clinic staff will make every effort to get the physician from the Senate Chamber floor.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Legislative Clinic	(850) 488-5241
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	(850) 431-1155
HCA Florida Capital Hospital	(850) 325-5000
Office of Legislative Services	(850) 717-0301