

2019 Public Policy Priorities



Now that the 2018 Colorado has adjourned, the next session has already begun. It will represent unique challenges for the medical profession and patients due to the sheer number and significance of the issues that will be politically viable. Plaintiff's attorneys have already previewed an aggressive agenda they intend to pursue.

The 2019 session, as attorneys that sue doctors are well aware, brings a once in a decade opportunity to more easily amend the laws governing professional review and the legal conditions that define a medical license under the Medical Practice Act. Both complex bodies of law are required under Colorado's sunset law to self-terminate unless affirmatively recreated by the 2019 legislature. Instead of conflicts that arise between 7 to 9 members of a legislative committee, the full bodies of both chambers, 35 senators and 100 representatives, will be voting on the preferences of plaintiff's attorneys.

Simultaneously, professional advocates for business, consumers and non-physician health care professionals will be pressing their case on other important fronts.

Preparations for the 2019 legislative session are well underway. It is critical that CMS members be involved in this work. Please watch for how you can help. Key 2019 issues at this time include:

- Medical Practices Act Sunset
- Professional Review Sunset
- Non-economic damage cap expansion or other vehicles to expand the value of a civil lawsuit
- Cost containment: A major initiative of the state's largest and most effective business organization, the Metro-Denver Chamber of Commerce
- Out-of-Network: influential legislators have vowed that the issue will be repaired next year, whether or not physicians, consumers and health plans can agree
- The opioid crisis: A new interim study was approved in 2018 ensuring another round of bills
- Scope of Practice: At least two non-physician health care professional groups will seek to expand their scope of practice
- Unknown Known: Every session brings at least one unexpected health care issue that may or may not align with physician values and policies.

May 18, 2018

