

MedChi NEWS

MEDCHI APPLAUDS LANDMARK INSURANCE REFORMS PASSED BY MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MedChi Applauds Landmark Insurance Reforms Passed by Maryland General Assembly



Maryland State Delegate Terri Hill, MD, with MedChi President Padmini Ranasinghe, MD, on the floor of the House at the last night of session.

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, applauds the Maryland General Assembly for passing a series of critical insurance reform bills during the 2025 legislative session. These bills, strongly supported by MedChi, aim to enhance transparency, reduce insurer roadblocks to care, and improve access to lifesaving screenings and medications.

"These reforms prioritize patients by holding insurers accountable and ensuring timely, clinically guided care," MedChi President, Padmini Ranasinghe, MD said. "Our advocacy focused on removing unnecessary barriers and reinforcing that medical decisions should be made by physicians—not algorithms."

Key legislation includes:

- HB 820 – Regulates the use of artificial intelligence in utilization review, requiring final decisions to be made by physicians in the same specialty as the condition under review.
- HB 848/SB 474 – Enhances Maryland Insurance Administration's oversight and transparency on adverse decisions.
- SB 773 – Ensures patient assistance programs count toward out-of-pocket cost-sharing for prescription drugs.
- HB 995/SB 776 – Establishes a workgroup to study and address the rise in insurer denials and standardize reporting requirements.
- HB 553/SB 94 – Expands Medicaid coverage to include self-measured blood pressure monitoring for high-risk populations, including pregnant and postpartum individuals.
- HB 666/SB 60 – Requires coverage of calcium score testing consistent with updated preventive care guidelines.
- HB 970/SB 646 – Prohibits step therapy or fail-first protocols for insulin used to treat all forms of diabetes.
- HB 1087/SB 921 – Bans step therapy for drugs treating symptoms of stage 4 metastatic cancer.
- HB 1243/SB 975 – Prevents insurers from denying coverage for specialty drugs administered by in-network oncology providers.

"These reforms are a victory for Maryland physicians and the patients we serve," Dr. Ranasinghe added. "They reflect a commitment to a more transparent, accountable, and patient-focused healthcare system."

MedChi urges Governor Moore to sign these bills into law and reaffirms its dedication to advancing policies that protect patient access and uphold the integrity of physician-led care.

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INSURANCE REFORMS,
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