

# MedChi NEWS

## New Maryland Health Laws Take Effect – What Physicians Need to Know

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As we proceed into 2025, I want to acknowledge the new laws passed during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly session that will take effect soon. These legislative efforts reflect MedChi's ongoing work to advance public health, improve insurance transparency, reduce unnecessary barriers to care, and strengthen Maryland's healthcare infrastructure.

Several bills of interest to the medical community become effective June 1, July 1, and October 1, with others taking effect on January 1, 2026.

#### Effective June 1, 2025

- Mental Health & SUD Access (HB 11): Removes the sunset, making it permanent for patients to access out-of-network behavioral health specialists at in-network cost.
- Telehealth (HB 869): Audio-only and telehealth payment parity made permanent.
- Immunization Coverage (HB 1315): Ensures vaccines are covered by insurers and expands pharmacy vaccination authority.
- Adverse Decision Workgroup (HB 995): MedChi has a seat on this workgroup addressing increased care denials.
- EQIP-like infrastructure: HB 1104 supports Maryland's AHEAD model and creates the Population Health Improvement Fund.



Gov. Wes Moore Bill Signing

#### Effective July 1, 2025

- Maternal Health Monitoring (HB 553): Medicaid will cover self-measured blood pressure monitoring for maternal patients.
- Cannabis and Public Health Updates (HB 12, HB 132): Clarifies state regulatory frameworks on cannabis products and public health.
- Opioid Restitution Fund Use (HB 729): Expands training and racial equity provisions.

#### Effective October 1, 2025

- Step Therapy Reform (HB 848): Expands enforcement for health insurers issuing adverse decisions.
- Perinatal Standards (HB 1380): Strengthens minimum safety requirements for birthing hospitals and centers.
- Medical Records Notice (HB 1510): Modernizes patient notification rules for record destruction.

#### Effective January 1, 2026

- Insulin Step Therapy Ban (HB 970): Insurers may not impose step therapy for insulin treatment.
- Calcium Score Testing (HB 666): Medicaid and commercial insurance coverage required.
- Specialty Drug Access (HB 1243): Ensures fair reimbursement and coverage for in-office dispensed specialty drugs.
- Hearing Aids (HB 1355): Expands insurance coverage for adults.
- Cost-Sharing Clarity (SB 773): Insurers must count third-party payments toward patient cost-sharing obligations.

These laws reflect months of advocacy by MedChi, collaboration with legislators, and testimony from physicians across Maryland. Our work continues—especially on preserving Maryland's unique Medicare waiver, protecting Medicaid, and supporting the continued implementation of value-based care models like EQIP and the AHEAD initiative. Thank you for being a part of this progress.



Gov. Wes Moore & MedChi CEO Gene Ransom

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