

DOCTOR OF THE DAY PROGRAM

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.

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 as 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 are provided to assist in identifying accommodations.

The Florida Legislature has implemented COVID-19 protocols. Details about these protocols are available upon request.

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. In keeping with the Legislature's COVID-19 protocols, doctors serving in either the Senate or House Chambers should report to the Legislative Clinic only after being cleared with a negative COVID test. 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. each day, except Fridays, when physicians may be released from their duties after the noon hour. The Senate and House normally convene daily; however, legislative schedules are always subject to change and session may be cancelled at any time.

During the first few weeks of session, Mondays and Fridays are often used as travel days for legislative members; 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. Further, during the week of Passover, there are no scheduled committee meetings or full session. However, it is still beneficial to have a physician present in the Capitol on these days as the Capitol will have a number of staff present who may need medical assistance.

It is important to note that the Doctor of the Day must observe the rules of the Senate and House, which include a prohibition against lobbying or in any way attempting to influence legislators' opinions while guests of either chamber. Dress code for the Doctor of the Day is business attire; coat and tie are required for gentlemen.

The Doctor of the Day will be introduced by either the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, depending on which chamber is sponsoring the physician and if that chamber is in full session; therefore, it is *very important* that the scheduled physician is on the floor of the appropriate chamber 15 minutes prior to session beginning. The Doctor of the Day will be escorted to the sponsoring chamber by staff from the Legislative Clinic. The clinic will provide the physician with a badge that says "Doctor of the Day" which serves as a "pass" to enter the chamber. The Doctor of the Day may sit with his or her local delegation in the sponsoring chamber. If the sponsoring chamber is not in session, the Doctor of the Day is free to attend committee meetings or visit legislators' offices. The Doctor of the Day may be called on his or her cell phone to see patients with either non-emergencies or true emergencies. In the event of an emergency, clinic staff will make every effort to get the physician from the chamber floor.

Important contacts for the Doctor of the Day:

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