



## Updates from Mark A. Lopatin, MD

Dear Fellow District 2 Member,

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) recently held its August meeting. As the Trustee for the Second District, I wanted to keep you abreast of what took place. As always, if there are questions or concerns or if you want to get more involved in helping to protect our profession and your patients, please feel free to contact me at [mlopatin@comcast.net](mailto:mlopatin@comcast.net).

Two issues I wish to highlight from PAMED's August Board meeting include:

- At my request, the Board discussed a grassroots effort by another organization to raise money for a potential lawsuit against the ABIM. After discussion, the board voted against this measure for a number of reasons. The board did agree to have the Task Force on Continuous Professional Education summarize activities as to what can be done for MOC and report back in October 2018. PAMED policy acknowledges that the certification requirements within the MOC process are costly, time intensive, and result in significant disruptions to the availability of physicians for patient care.
- At my request, the Board also discussed the issue of the safe harbor exemption for Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Group Purchasing Organizations which act as middle men for purchases of hospital supplies and outpatient medications. After a debate, the Board voted to not support a motion to support the repeal of the 1987 safe harbor exemption to the Medicare Anti-Kickback Statute. A resolution on this issue will likely be introduced at this year's PAMED House of Delegates.

Here are other notable discussions:

- The Board agreed to share PAMED's concerns with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) about the proposed [2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#), especially as it relates to changes to evaluation and management (E&M) services coding. We will subsequently share our comments with members once they have been compiled. In the meantime, PAMED encourages our members to submit their own comments/concerns to CMS before Sept. 10 [via this comment form](#).
- PAMED honored state Rep. Mark Mustio with a certificate of appreciation for his service to physician causes. As Chair of the House

Professional Licensure Committee, Rep. Mustio will be an influential figure in championing passage of a **PAMED-supported bill on telemedicine** (SB 780) this fall.

- The Board agreed to submit a letter to the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General and the state Department of Insurance to express PAMED's concern regarding the proposed merger between **CVS Health-Aetna, Inc.**, and its risks to both patient safety and increased medical costs.
- The Board agreed to collaborate with the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania to draft legislation that addresses the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision on [Reginelli v. Boggs](#). This case signals two significant shifts in Pennsylvania **peer review analysis** by narrowing the scope of the Peer Review Protection Act (PRPA).
- The Board discussed the political landscape regarding **CRNP scope of practice** legislation. We also discussed the intransigent position of the CRNPs. The Board remains steadfast in PAMED's policy to resist and oppose independent practice for CRNPs. A full status report will be presented to the HOD.
- [Read previous board minutes here.](#)

#### 4 ways you can get involved

1. Submit a resolution to the 2018 PAMED House of Delegates by Sept. 27. [Watch this short video](#) to learn how.
2. Donate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society's political action committee, PAMPAC. [Learn more here.](#)
3. [Join PAMED's Social Media](#) Ambassadors and share timely calls to action with your colleagues.
4. [Read our weekly e-newsletter](#), *The Dose*, to stay informed on new initiatives.



Mark A. Lopatin, MD  
Second District Trustee

