



Vermont Medical Society

Founded in 1784

Vermont Medical Society 2019 Priorities

Health System Reform

- **All-Payer Model** -Monitoring implementation and ensuring physician practices have information and voice
- **Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB)** – Requiring GMCB membership to include a physician or other health care professional (registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant).
- **Medicaid Policies** – Seeking to maintain 100% of Medicare rates for primary care services; implementation of Act 116 regarding fair audit and recoupment practices.
- **Insurance Coverage** – Maintaining patient protections in the face of federal changes to ACA

Reduce administrative burdens in the practice of medicine

- **Streamline prior authorizations & quality metrics** – Dedicated to reducing administrative tasks that do not meaningfully improve quality or patient care
- **Credentialing** – Seeking to reduce the duplication in paperwork required to be added to hospital medical staffs or payer networks

Support evidence-based medicine and public health measures

- **Opioid epidemic** - Increasing access to medication assisted therapy and eliminating prior authorization; implementing and improving VDH rules on opioid prescribing and VPMS.
- **Marijuana Policy** – Limiting medical marijuana use to additional conditions only when scientific studies show it is safe and effective; Opposing commercial sales of non-medical marijuana and urging the state to meet appropriate prevention benchmarks.
- **Reproductive Rights** - Supporting legal protections for women’s reproductive rights in the face of federal challenges.
- **Mental Health Capacity** - Monitoring Act 203 efforts to expand access to mental health services and inpatient psychiatric bed capacity for all Vermonters.
- **Tobacco Control** – Supporting raising the age to purchase tobacco products and additional regulation of e-cigarettes.
- **Team-Based Care** – Supporting physician-led team-based care that allows all clinicians to provide excellent care commensurate with their training and patient safety

Ensure a strong work force

- **Physician Wellness and Workplace Environment** - Ensuring that new regulations, technology, or initiatives are implemented with due consideration to negative impacts on physician wellness; recognizing the importance of physician leadership and input in all aspects of the health system, especially those that directly affect patient care
- **Loan repayment** – Committed to retaining loan repayment as an effective physician recruitment and retention tool

What is the Vermont Medical Society?

The Vermont Medical Society (VMS) is the largest physician membership organization in the state, representing over 2000 physicians, physician assistants and medical students across all specialties and geographic locations. VMS is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization founded in 1784, dedicated to improving the environment in which Vermont physicians practice medicine, and to protecting the health of Vermont citizens.

VMS Organization

VMS is made up of 2416 members, which represents 2/3 of practicing physicians & PAs in Vermont, along with 460 medical students. Our members include primary care, specialists and all employer-types (hospital-employed, FQHC, independent practice)

VMS also operates the:

- *Vermont Specialty Societies:* Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Surgeons, Orthopedics
- *Vermont Practitioner Health Program* under contract with Board of Medical Practice to serve licensees with an impaired ability to practice
- *VMS Education and Research Foundation:* independent 501(c)(3) that supports education, improvement and evaluation in the field of health

VMS Physician Leadership

President: **Stephen Leffler, MD** (emergency medicine, Chief Population Health & Quality Officer, UVMMC)

President-elect: **Catherine Schneider, MD** (general surgery, Mt. Ascutney)

Vice President: **Simha Ravven, MD** (psychiatry, interim Chief Medical Officer, Brattleboro Retreat)

Immediate Past-President: **Trey Dobson, MD** (emergency medicine, Chief Medical Officer, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center)

VMS Policy Staff

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