



**The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) is committed to being the voice for Illinois physicians and patients on legislative issues that affect public health and the practice of medicine.**



## What's New

### The Network Adequacy and Transparency (NAT) Act



The Network Adequacy and Transparency (NAT) Act was introduced by ISMS and passed into law this year. This Act creates important new protections for Illinois patients who purchase state-regulated private health plans. The passing of the NAT ACT means:

- Insurance companies need to make sure their networks fit patients' needs by ensuring there are enough health facilities and doctors, including specialists.
- When networks change, pregnant women and patients with complex conditions will be able to stay with their doctors long enough to make a smooth transition without out-of-network charges.
- Health insurers are obligated to maintain updated provider directories and notify patients of network changes in a timely fashion.



[ISMS Patient Video goes viral.](#)

### **Telehealth Act**



The Telehealth Act requires health care professionals treating Illinois patients through telehealth to be licensed in Illinois. ISMS strongly supported this law, as it protects patients and physicians by ensuring patients are receiving quality care from health care professionals within their scope of practice.

### **Organ Donor Registry**



This measure will allow 16 and 17 year-olds to register for the state's First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry when they receive their driver's license or identification card. By joining the registry, 16 and 17 year-olds will be giving consent to donate their organs and tissue at the time of their death. This new law will save lives by increasing the availability of organs for transplant.



Dr. Nestor Ramirez, ISMS President, joins legislators as Gov. Rauner signs legislation expanding the organ donor registry.



**Because of your continued support, ISMS took a stand against harmful policies impacting physicians and patients during the 2017 legislative sessions. Below is a recap of a few important pieces of legislation the ISMS opposed in 2017.**

### **Naturopath Licensure**



Naturopaths pushed for licensure under the Medical Practice Act for authority to provide alternative treatments as primary care. ISMS swiftly opposed this bill, as naturopaths do not have the proper medical training to diagnose and treat medical conditions. ISMS is committed to protecting patients in Illinois by making sure only properly trained and licensed professionals are allowed to provide medical care.

### **Direct-Entry Midwife Licensure**



ISMS strongly fought against the licensure of direct entry midwives, which would allow these individuals to provide home birthing services. Not only do home births come with significant risks, direct-entry midwives lack the education and training to provide such services.

### **Workers' Compensation Cuts**



There were repeated calls this past spring to reduce payments for physicians and hospitals participating in worker compensation cases. Reductions to the medical fee schedule harm injured workers by making it more difficult for them to access medical care. These patients often present with complex injuries and require intensive interaction with workers' compensation payers. ISMS continues to advocate against additional cuts and is working to reduce the complications and red tape that physicians face when treating injured workers.



**ISMSLegislative** @ISMSLegislative • Jan 24

If [@IllinoisDoctors](#) can get quality medical care to injured workers quickly, they will return to work faster and have better incomes #twill

**ISMSLegislative** @ISMSLegislative • Jun 22

ISMS testifies against cuts to the medical fee schedule in the House Committee of the Whole on workers comp "reform"

**ISMS would like to thank you** for your continued support. For real-time

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