

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEWS OF NEW YORK

Providing Information to Assist Physicians in the State of New York

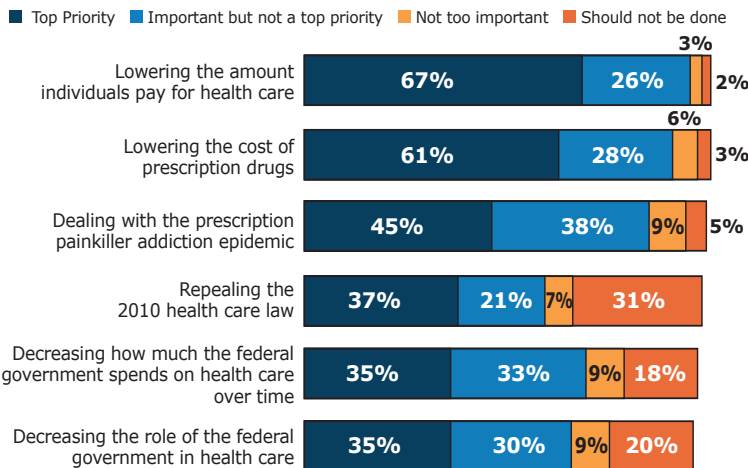
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Lowering Out-of-Pocket Costs is Top Health Care Priority

Should each of the following things Donald Trump and the next Congress might do when it comes to health care be a top priority, an important but not a top priority, not too important, or should it not be done?



NOTE: Question wording abbreviated. See headline for full question wording. Don't know/Refused responses not shown.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted December 13-19, 2016)

Governor Proposes \$152 Billion Budget for 2017-18

Governor Cuomo recently released his proposed \$152.3 billion spending plan for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year. The Budget proposed is to address a \$3.5 billion budget deficit and a proposed increase of \$1 billion in education aid in part by retaining the "millionaires' tax" for an three additional years. At the same time the Governor proposes to reduce income taxes for those with incomes of \$300,000 or less. The budget would also extend for an additional three years the health financing mechanisms of the Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) for a variety of public good programs.

Among the positive provisions in the proposed Budget:

- Funding for the Excess Medical Malpractice program would be continued at its historic level of \$127,400,000;
- Funding for MSSNY's Committee for Physicians Health would be continued at its historic level of \$990,000;

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U.S. Senate Begins Debate Over ACA Repeal; MSSNY Urges Caution and Requests More Specificity

As the U.S. Senate began debate of a concurrent resolution introduced by Senate Budget Committee Chair Mike Enzi (R-WY) to proceed with legislation to enact a repeal of many of the funding provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), MSSNY President Dr. Malcolm Reid [wrote to each member](#) of New York's Congressional delegation to express concern with efforts to repeal funding for coverage expansions without simultaneously specifying how it will be replaced.

Dr. Reid's letter articulated that physicians across New York State have expressed great concerns with several ACA provisions, noting that the ACA has "encouraged and/or accelerated the proliferation of health insurance plans with huge patient cost-sharing responsibilities, prompted the narrowing of physician networks and elimination of coverage options for small

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NYS DOH Announces Expansion of Medical Marijuana to Include Chronic Pain

The New York State Department of Health recently announced that it will propose regulations to include "chronic pain" as a qualifying condition for patients who have been certified to use medical marijuana. DOH also announced that regulations will also allow wholesaling of medical marijuana products, removing the cap on the number of products available to patients, making it easier for hospitals to allow certified patients to self-administer medical marijuana.

In a press release issued by the Department of Health, Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, said, "These are major

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MSSNY Lobby Day, March 8 – Plan Now to Be in Albany

MSSNY's 2017 Annual Physician Legislative Advocacy Day is **Wednesday, March 8**. Please hold that day open to join hundreds of your colleagues from across the State in Albany to hear from New York State's legislative leaders and top health policymakers and to meet with your local legislators to urge that they fix the challenging issues that are confronting our health care delivery system. To register, click [here](#).

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INSIDE NEWS

New requirements
for carriers to combat
opioid addiction

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Governor announces
proposal to regulate
PBM drug prices

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Liability expansion
bills reintroduced for
2017 leg session

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Council Notes for
January 2017 meeting
in Westbury, LI

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More New York Residents Have Access to Prescription Savings

Statewide Prescription Assistance Program Offers a Prescription to High Healthcare Costs

The Centers for Disease Control reports that Americans spend more on prescription drugs than people in any other country: some \$45 billion in out-of-pocket dollars in the last year alone. With that in mind, the New York Rx Card is reminding physicians that their patients who aren't insured or who take prescription drugs that aren't covered by their health insurance plans, can use the New York Rx Card to obtain discounts of up to 75 percent off the retail price for FDA-approved medications.

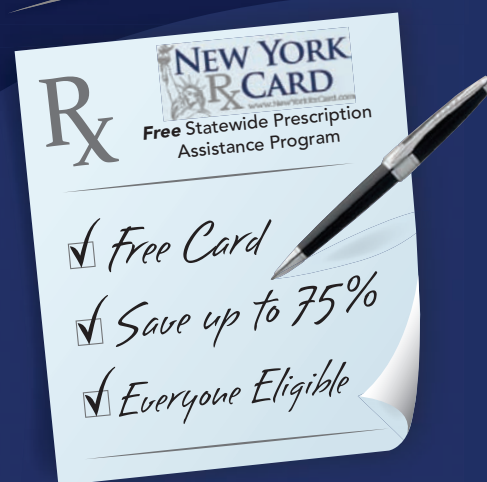
New York Rx Card has been working closely with Medical Society of the State of New York, as well as numerous clinics and hospitals around the state to distribute free discount prescription cards so that all New York residents will have access to this free program. New York Rx Card was launched to help the uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescription medications. The program can also be used by people that have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans.

Another unique component of the program is their preferred pharmacy option. New York Rx Card has chosen CVS as their preferred pharmacy so that residents who don't have access to a computer and can't obtain a hard card, can visit any CVS to have their prescriptions processed through New York Rx Card. Residents can simply reference "New York Rx Card" to have their prescription processed through the program. New York Rx Card is accepted at over 68,000 participating regional and national pharmacies.

New York Rx Card has helped residents save over \$143 million since its inception in 2010. You can help by encouraging your patients to print a free New York Rx Card at www.newyorkrxcard.com. New York Rx Card is also available as an app for iPhone and Android. You can search "Free Rx iCard" in the app store. Any physicians who are interested in ordering free cards for their clinic/hospital can email Chez Ciccone, New York Rx Card Program Director at fciccone@nyrxcard.com.



Your Prescription to Save!



Program Highlights:

- ✓ **Free Card For Everyone**
- ✓ **No Restrictions on Eligibility**
- ✓ **Low Price Guarantee**
- ✓ **Discounts Most Medications**
- ✓ **Accepted at Over 68,000 Pharmacies**
- ✓ **HIPAA Compliant**

For more information or to order free hard cards visit:

www.newyorkrxcard.com
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Phone: 800-931-2297

New York Rx Card Preferred Pharmacy:

CVS/pharmacy®

