

OUR PATIENTS NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

OUT-OF-CONTROL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE COSTS ARE FORCING MORE AND MORE DOCTORS TO CONSIDER MOVING OUT OF STATE OR JUST CLOSE



Physicians are now facing a serious threat which will impact their ability to practice here on Long Island. That threat is the spiraling cost of our medical liability insurance. On June 30th, the Superintendent of Insurance announced that “he is delaying the setting of new medical malpractice rates past July 1st to allow time for the negotiation of reforms that have the potential to result in reduced rates...”

Clearly, this highly unusual step of delaying the rate announcement was only done because the new rates would have jeopardized the ability of many Long Island physicians to continue to practice.

Over the past five years the premiums that physicians pay have increased by an average of more than 60%. An orthopedic surgeon on Long Island pays over \$140,000. An obstetrician/gynecologist pays almost \$190,000. A neurosurgeon pays almost \$310,000. Unless something is done now, there will be another increase retroactive to July 1st. Without action by our elected legislators this increase will be minimally 10% and possibly as high as 30%.

This level of increase can't be absorbed by Long Island physicians and will have a devastating impact on our patients' ability to receive the care they need.

And this cost increase can't just be passed along. Physicians have little or no control over the amount of their fees. Medicare sets the fee for doctors when we treat our older patients. Medicaid sets our fees when we treat our less financially able patients. And huge profit-driven managed care companies tell us how much they will pay for any medical service we provide. Individual physicians have little or no ability to alter their fees to meet dramatically increasing costs.

We can't ignore the truth. Every independent study over the last 30 years concludes unequivocally that the system of medical liability insurance is a failure. That's the tragedy of what is happening. This failed system is about to bring down one of the greatest systems of health care in the world.

Only our legislators can help. We ask you, our patients, to ask them not to let this happen.

CALL 1-866-728-3397

**or go to www.mssny.org to reach our Albany leaders.
ACT NOW BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING OUT**

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PAID FOR BY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND YOUR DOCTOR