



## NEWS and NOTES from NPO

December 17, 2019

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE UPDATES

## ALERT!

### **WALMART DELAYS ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (EPCS) JANUARY 1, 2020 DEADLINE**

MSMS notified members that [Walmart reversed their previous decision](#) to only accept electronically prescribed controlled substances starting January 1, 2020 following [objections](#) by the American Medical Association.

Federal mandates regarding EPCS continue to remain with a January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 effective date. The MSMS article describes steps for providers to take towards meeting the mandates for providers whether they use an EHR or not. Michigan is currently debating legislation that would require prescribers to electronically transmit all prescriptions, including those for controlled substances.

### THINGS TO KNOW AND DO

### **HELP MSMS HELP YOU! TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH MICHIGAN HEALTH PLANS**

MSMS advocates for Michigan physicians through their payer advocacy work and they want to hear from you. They have created an [online survey](#) designed to gather information from providers about their experience with Michigan health plans. This information can become a guide for members to use when considering contracting with health plans directly.

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### **HEALTH CAN'T WAIT: REQUEST FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION DATA**

MSMS, as part of the [Health Can't Wait Coalition](#), is working towards ending delays in patients' access to health due to prior authorization or insurance mandated step therapies and they are asking for your input. They are asking practices to help identify and provide additional information on:

- High approval prior authorizations: tests, procedures or prescriptions that are approved 90% of the time or more.
- Prior authorizations for low cost tests where the administrative cost of completing the request is more than the reimbursement.

Please send information to [Rebecca Blake](#) with MSMS.

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### **MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION CLASSES**

Northern Michigan Psychiatric Services and NPO continue their partnership to expand Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) services in the region. Additional information and registration information can be found using the links below:

- [MBSR for Teens](#) is now offering a third 8-week class starting 1/15/2020. Teens from 13 - 19 years old participating in this class will learn about the body-mind connection and how leading a healthy lifestyle can positively impact their physical and emotional well-being.
- [MBSR for Adults](#) is a new 8-week class helping participants cultivate a different relationship with stress resulting from a chronic physical and/or psychological illness and helping individuals to better navigate life's inevitable changes.

If you have any questions about a referral, class content, or to request financial scholarships for your patients, please call Wendy Weckstein at either (231) 935-0355 or (231) 342-9634.

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### **Helpful Resources & Upcoming Events**

[2019 NPO Calendar](#)  
[NPO Home](#)  
[NMHN Home](#)  
[Trillium Home Health](#)  
[MACRA-MIPS Corner](#)  
[Member Connections](#)

*NPO is committed to providing great resources to our members!  
We welcome your feedback and comments.*

Northern Physicians Organization 231.421.8505