



## Welcome to the Vermont Medical Society

Vermont Medical Society (VMS) physician and physician assistant members have spent the past three years responding to crises, from COVID-19 and RSV to staffing and flooding emergencies. They are deeply committed to their patients and communities, yet many are burned out from an unsustainable workload, exacerbated by administrative burdens, capacity issues and severe workforce shortages. In July of 2022 the Vermont Medical Society surveyed our members about the pressing issues impacting them. *See the full survey results here: <https://vtmd.org/2022-vms-survey-results>.* Comments included:

**“Too many work hours. Too much administrative work after a 50-hour clinical week. I am a director of a clinical service and have no administrative time. All I do is put out fires and do not improve anything.”**

***“The overall morale of physicians is as low as I ever seen it.”***

## What Can the Vermont Legislature Do?

### Increase Practice Sustainability

- Continue to sustainably fund the Medicaid professional fee schedules & adjust for inflation
- Fund Blueprint direct investment in primary care practices (Act 51)
- Increase proportion of health care dollars going to primary care services (H. 220)

### Reduce Administrative Burdens

- Reduce/streamline the prior authorization approval process (H. 220)
- Reduce paperwork headaches required to comply with payer billing reviews
- Require consistency in payer policies for audio-only telehealth services

### Ensure a Strong Workforce

- Provide ongoing funding for primary care scholarships, loan repayment, residency (Act 78)
- Simplify medical licensure process (Act 4)
- Meet statewide economic development needs like housing & childcare

## Support Public Health

- Support ban on sale of flavored tobacco products
- Require insurance coverage of medically necessary obesity medications
- Ensure adequate substance use prevention policies and funding
- Increase pediatric and adult mental health care services

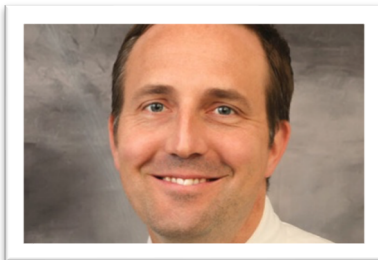
## VMS Organization

**VMS is made up of 2600 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). [www.vtmd.org](http://www.vtmd.org)

**VMS also operates the:**

- [Vermont Specialty Societies](#): Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Surgeons, Orthopedics, Osteopathic Physicians, Addiction Medicine.
- [Vermont Practitioner Health Program](#): supports health care practitioners (MD, DO, PA, RA, AA) with impaired ability to practice medicine
- [VMS Education and Research Foundation](#): physician leadership training, student scholarship.

## VMS Physician Leadership



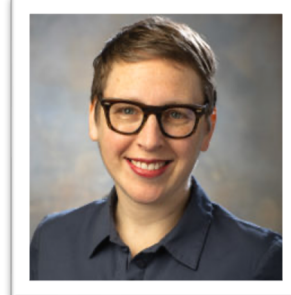
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