



VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY Fact Sheet

For more information, contact:
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About VMS – The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to advancing the practice of medicine by advocating on behalf of Vermont’s doctors and the patients and communities they care for.

The Society serves its 2,000 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. Founded more than 200 years ago, the Society has long been recognized as one of the state’s most prominent health care organizations.

Member Services – VMS serves its members through six primary member benefits:

- State and federal public policy advocacy
- Practice management support
- Insurance
- Provider education
- Communications
- Peer support

Leadership

John Brumsted, M.D., President

Paula Duncan, M.D., Vice President

S. Glen Neale, M.D., Immediate Past President

Paul Harrington, Executive Vice President

Robert Tortolani, M.D., President-Elect

Howard Schapiro, M.D., Sec./Treasurer

John Mazuzan, M.D., Treasurer Emeritus

Membership – Membership in VMS, which is open to practicing and retired physicians, residents and medical school students, is currently comprised of nearly 2,000 members.

Management Structure – Individual members form the basis of all decision-making in VMS, as each member has ample opportunity to voice their views at the annual meeting, regular membership meetings or by simply contacting staff and officers. In the intervals between member meetings, the Society’s affairs are managed by the VMS Council and Executive Committees, both comprised of officers elected at the annual meeting and in the case of the Council, representatives from the county medical societies, medical practice specialties, hospital medical staffs, the state commissioner of health, and the dean of the UVM College of Medicine.

Recent Legislative Efforts – Recent examples of VMS’s advocacy include:

- Voicing aggressive opposition to a nine-percent cut in physician Medicaid reimbursement rates proposed by Gov. James Douglas. The Vermont General Assembly eventually limited the cut to two percent.
- Successfully advocating for passage of fair contracting legislation that contained numerous provisions favorable to physicians, including reducing the time for both health insurers and workers’ compensation carriers to pay claims, establishing contract standards for health plan contracts with physicians and regulating rental networks.
- Supporting the passage of S. 48, which revised the previous pharmaceutical disclosure law by banning many gifts outright and mandating full disclosure of allowable expenditures to physicians, health care organizations, state-funded academic institutions, and non-profit groups.

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