Dear all:

Please allow this to be my final MAG BOD Update for 2016. My previous updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message.

2017 General Assembly
We anticipate a very busy year going into the 2017 General Assembly. Here are a few highlights of what to expect:

- **Prescription Drug and Heroine Abuse**
  - Mandate that physicians check the prescription drug monitoring program before prescribing Schedule II or III.
  - Limitation on the number of prescriptions that the physicians may prescribe from 3-7 days.
  - Mandate continuing medical education for all physicians on opioids and the prescription drug monitoring program.
  - The Senate Opioid Study Committee will release a report prior to the first of the year.
  - Please find attached to this email some recommendations from outside groups.

- **Out of Network Issues**
  - Mandate that physicians (as a condition to be on the medical staff) accept the same health insurance plans as the hospital.
  - Mandate that out of network physicians accept a rate consistent with a rate below Medicare.
  - MAG and the specialty societies have put forth a compromise that is under consideration.

- **Scope of Practice**
  - Optometrists are seeking legislation to allow extraocular injections, including (but not limited to) subconjunctival and eyelid injections. Please note that organized optometry has managed to legislate rights in some states to perform injections, lasers, and/or scalpel surgery.

- MAG’s legislative priorities can be found at http://www.mag.org/advocacy/take-action/legislative-priorities, which include Medicaid payment parity, patient safety initiatives (offer/settlement and distracted driving), and maintenance of certification, and out of network health insurance issues.

Department of Public Health – Standing Order for Naloxone
Many thanks to Governor Deal for issuing an executor order to allow easier access for naloxone. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/DPH-issues-standing-order-for-naloxone-prescriptions.

VA Rule on APRN
The VA finalized a rule to allow most APRN’s to practice independently without physician clinical oversight within the system. Organized medicine opposed this rule change. Please see the AMA’s

Physicians’ Day at the Capitol
Physicians’ Day at the Capitol will be held on January 25 at 8am to 2pm. Please make plans to attend. For more information, please go to https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=c0e4eed78138420ea0be7607b6f4e7a4.

MAG Board of Directors
The MAG Board of Directors will be meeting January 28 in Atlanta. If you have specific issues you would like Rutledge Forney, MD, Chair, to consider for the agenda, please email me directly to bring to her attention.

Happy Holidays.

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr. J.D. | Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange Suite 200 I Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone) | 404-312-9030 (Mobile)
dpalmisano@mag.org | www.mag.org

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