



FloridaMedical

ASSOCIATION

Helping Physicians Practice Medicine

P.O. Box 10269 | Tallahassee, FL | 32302
123 South Adams Street | Tallahassee, FL | 32301
850.224.6496 | 850.224.6627 Fax | www.fmaonline.org

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FMA's 2009 LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Passed the FMA's Assignment of Benefits bill which requires managed care companies to honor a PPO patient's wishes to assign the benefits (payment made by the insurance company) directly to the out-of-network physician.
- Passed legislation to implement a mandatory prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) as well as require pain clinics to register with the DOH and give the Board of Medicine the ability to establish safe operating rules. This important legislation will help prevent doctor shopping and will reduce the number of deaths from controlled substance overdoses.
- Passed legislation that changed the Patient Self-Referral Act of 1992 to allow sleep medicine physicians to conduct sleep testing on patients without having to be physically on the premises at night when testing is taking place.
- Stopped legislation that would have allowed a pharmacist in a nursing home to make therapeutic substitutions without the physician's consent.
- Stopped scope of practice expansions by allied health professionals including ARNPs, Optometrists and Physical Therapists.
- Helped defeat legislation that would have banned all but a trace amount of mercury from all vaccines.
- Stopped legislation that would have given parents full control over a child's vaccination schedule, despite the objections of the treating physician to such a schedule.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- 2,369 bills were filed during the 2009 legislative session.
- Only 271 bills passed BOTH the House AND the Senate)-including the FMA's 2 bills (Assignment of Benefits & PDMP).
- Only 11% of bills passed the full legislature and were sent to the Governor for his signature.
- FMA Governmental Affairs staff tracked approximately 355 bills during the 2009 legislative session.