



SPECIAL EDITION

Health Commissioner Addresses NJPCAC Members at Annual Meeting

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition was honored to have as its annual meeting guest speaker Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

Dr. Elnahal was confirmed as commissioner by the New Jersey Senate on March 26th and is the first Muslim-American cabinet member in the Garden State.

NJPCAC is believed to be one of the first, if not the first, physician group in the state to be honored with the commissioner's attendance.

Our coalition is grateful to Dr. Nadeem Baig from NJPCAC member practice Allied Digestive Health who arranged for Dr. Elnahal to be the featured speaker.

Dr. Elnahal, 32, is a native of southern New Jersey, growing up in Linwood and Galloway Township and most recently serving as the Assistant Deputy Under-Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety, and Value at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



L to R: Dr. Robert Gialanella, Vice Chairman; Health Commissioner Dr. Shereef Elnahal; Dr. Alan Krieger, President and Chairman; Dr. Patrick Ciccone, Treasurer; and, Dr. Abe Horn, Secretary.



Commissioner Elnahal's remarks focused on the areas that will be priorities for the Department of Health during the Administration of Governor Phil Murphy. NJPCAC physicians engaged in a robust discussion with Dr. Elnahal on various issues, including (i) implementation of the Codey Act amendments that were signed into law last year to ensure independent practice participation in Alternative Payment Models, (ii) Out-of-Network legislation, (iii) ensuring access to patient care for indigent populations, and (iv) payment differentials between hospital and independent practice settings.

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) exists to promote and protect the high quality, cost-effective and integrated care furnished by physicians in independent medical practices and other non-hospital settings throughout the State of New Jersey. NJPCAC's membership includes more than 200 practicing physicians and scores of additional healthcare professionals, including urologists, gastroenterologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, nurses and administrative staff, who have come together to educate policy makers, regulators, insurers and other key stakeholders, including patients and peers about legislative and regulatory changes that could adversely affect the quality and accessibility to care provided to patients in New Jersey and those that could advance care in New Jersey.

NJPCAC Re-Elects Slate of Officers at 10th Anniversary Meeting

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition unanimously voted to elect the following nine individuals to serve on NJPCAC's Board of Directors for 2018:

Dr. David Chaikin, Garden State Urology
Dr. Pat Ciccone, The Stone Center of New Jersey
Dr. Ben Fand, Premier Urology Group
Dr. Bob Gialanella, Allied Digestive Health
Dr. Abe Horn, South Jersey Gastroenterology
Dr. Alan Krieger, New Jersey Urology
Dr. Alan Mushnick, Advanced Gastrointestinal Specialists
Dr. Adam Perzin, Delaware Valley Urology
Mr. Alan Plotkin, Urology Care Alliance

They also re-elected its slate of officers for 2018. Serving again for 2018 will be:

Dr. Alan Krieger, Chairman and President
Dr. Bob Gialanella, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Pat Ciccone, Treasurer
Dr. Abe Horn, Secretary
Ms. Kelly Snyder, Assistant Treasurer

It's Crunch Time for Out of Network Issue

The new Speaker of the General Assembly, Assemblyman Craig Coughlin, has made the so-called "Out of Network" or "Surprise Medical Billing" issue his top priority for the new legislative session that convened this past January. New Jersey's new Governor, Phil Murphy, has also expressed some support for out of network reform to protect patients.

Most physicians and hospital administrators support transparency and disclosure changes that will help educate patients and make them aware of just exactly what their insurance plan covers. Providers also support a fair arbitration mechanism for disputed bills that takes into account usual and customary rates.

Current versions of the bill, however, include what is known as a "baseball-style" arbitration whereby an arbiter would have to accept either the amount put forth by the plan or the provider. There would be no middle ground.

NJPCAC will be participating with other physician specialty groups and the Medical Society of New Jersey in an advocacy and public relations effort to assure that our practices and patients are treated fairly on this issue. If you receive a request by email to contact your local Assembly or Senate member, please take the time to respond.

Thank you.
