



April 2026

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Jeffrey S. Weingarten, M.D.

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Spring! I hope you are all enjoying the refreshing change of season and the promise of summer just ahead.

It is a privilege to serve as President of the Michigan Otolaryngological Society this year. While there have been no major specialty-specific challenges, there has been significant legislative developments and evolving payer policies that directly affect our practices. MOS remains actively engaged in advocacy efforts to protect our specialty and support our hard-working physicians across the state.

Here are some updates on a few key legislative issues:

[1] BCBS Michigan Modifier 25 Policy - Effective May 1, 2026, BCBS Michigan will reduce reimbursement for E/M services by 50% when billed with modifier 25. This policy will have a substantial financial and operational impact on our practices and the care we provide to our patients. We strongly oppose this change and have joined forces with multiple specialty societies across the state, working in collaboration with the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, to advocate against this policy. Please read the following update by Dr. Taha Meraj, MOS President-Elect, about our efforts and recent meetings with BCBSM to address this matter.

[2] Michigan House Bill 4399 - HB 4399 proposes expanding Nurse Practitioner authority to allow independent practice, effectively permitting the unsupervised practice of medicine. In November 2025, the House Health Policy Committee voted the bill out of committee following extensive testimony and strong opposition from physician groups. As of March 2026, the bill remains in the House Rules Committee. We continue to work closely with MSMS and other physician organizations to advocate for physician-led, team-based care and to oppose this legislation.

[3] Michigan House Bills 4402 and 5140 - MOS has worked closely with the Michigan Audiology Coalition on HB 5140, first introduced in 2023 aiming to require universal congenital CMV screening for all newborns in Michigan. In February 2026, HB 4402 passed in the Michigan House to increase awareness, enhance education, and establish mandatory universal CMV screening. The bill now advances to the Senate, bringing us closer to achieving this important public health goal.

Education and Membership - We remain committed to providing high-quality continuing education opportunities and strengthening engagement within our Society. MOS hosts quarterly educational programs addressing topics of interest and importance to both faculty and resident members. In recent years, we have also incorporated industry-supported product theaters highlighting emerging therapies and innovations. We are grateful for the continued support of our members and sponsors, which makes these initiatives possible. Your ongoing participation and membership are essential to the strength of our organization.

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Upcoming Meetings - Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming MOS meetings:

- **April 29, 2026** – In-Person Meeting, The Henry, Dearborn, MI
- **July 17–19, 2026** – Summer Meeting, Park Place, Traverse City, MI
- **October 28, 2026** – In-Person Meeting, The Henry, Dearborn, MI

We are especially looking forward to our Summer Meeting in Traverse City at the Park Place Hotel. Dr. Eric Succar, MOS Program Chair, has assembled an outstanding scientific program, including the 6th MOS Resident Quiz Bowl and the Resident Poster Competition. Registration details will be distributed soon.

MOS remains steadfast in its mission to represent and advance the interests of our specialty and our members. I encourage you to remain actively involved, share your perspectives, and take part in our advocacy efforts. Thank you for your continued dedication to your patients and to the Michigan otolaryngology community.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Chan, MD
President, Michigan Otolaryngological Society

FROM: Taha Meraj, MD, President-elect

MOS SUBJECT: ADVOCACY UPDATE – BCBSM Modifier 25 Policy

Dear MOS membership,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding our ongoing advocacy efforts against the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) policy that proposes a 50% reimbursement reduction for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services billed with Modifier 25, currently scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2026. Over the past several weeks, MOS has been working alongside our state and national partners to ensure BCBSM leadership fully understands the severe clinical and financial impacts of this flawed policy. On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, a meeting was held with BCBSM. This meeting demonstrated the full weight of organized medicine with representation from the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS), the American Medical Association (AMA) including AMA President Dr. Mukkamala, and leadership from various state specialty societies, including MOS.

During this meeting, our coalition presented BCBSM with a comprehensive list of clinical, operational, and valuation concerns. MOS specifically raised awareness of how this would affect everyday clinical practice and patient care, and how it would increase medical costs by penalizing care efficiency. MOS is hopeful that BCBSM will recognize the disruptive nature of this policy and choose to formally rescind it.

We anticipate receiving a formal response from BCBSM soon and expect to provide you with another definitive update around mid-April. While we remain optimistic, if BCBSM ignores the medical community's consensus, and allows this policy to stand, MOS, working closely with MSMS, is actively investigating and preparing to deploy all available advocacy, regulatory, and legal strategies to protect our practices and our patients.

We will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops over the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued membership and your dedication to providing exceptional otolaryngology care to your patients.

Sincerely,

Taha Meraj, MD

President-Elect, Michigan Otolaryngologic Society