



Highlights from the Hill

June 2016

In this Issue

- MedPAC Final Recommendation
- In The States

MedPAC Issues Final Report to Remove Two Protected Classes

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) has issued a final recommendation to remove two of the six protected classes in Medicare Part D. The Epilepsy Foundation strongly opposes any proposals that weaken the six protected classes policy we have previously urged MedPAC to not move forward with this recommendation. The partnership for Part D Access, a coalition of which we are a member, and which focuses on preserving the six protected classes, has issued a press release opposing cutting these protected classes. You can read the press release and learn more about the issue at www.epilepsy.com/medicare.

In The States

New York Considers SUDEP Legislation

Recently, legislation, S. 7961 and A. 10590, was introduced in the New York legislature. These bills would require the medical certificate portion of a death certificate to include a determination of whether the deceased suffered a sudden, unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP).

The Epilepsy Foundation wrote a memo in support of this legislation so that this critically needed data is collected and we are able to improve our understanding of epilepsy related mortality to allow us to better identify risk factors and preventive strategies. You can read our memo and urge your legislators to support the bills at www.cqrcengage.com/efa/NewYork.

Ohio Becomes 25th State to Pass Medical Cannabis

On June 8, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed House Bill 523, which will create a comprehensive medical cannabis program in the state. The bill ensures that patients will have safe, legal access to medical cannabis. Ohio is now the 25th state to pass legislation creating access to medical cannabis, which will allow individuals and families living with epilepsy and other chronic conditions to safely consider this option when traditional treatments have failed.

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