

# RIIPPA

Rhode Island  
Independent  
Physician  
Practice  
Association

*The Voice of Independent Medicine in Rhode Island*

The Rhode Island Legislature is considering bills (House Bill 7721 and House Bill 7720) that threaten the viability of independent medical practices. RIIPPA's member practices are key access points for high quality, affordable, and convenient care furnished to tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders each year. Management services organizations (MSOs) provide important administrative and financial support for practices like ours to ensure our viability without interfering with our professional medical judgment or clinical autonomy. By partnering with MSOs, our practices are able to...

## **Expand Access to High-Quality Care**

Partnering with an MSO has enabled us to access advanced technologies that we could not have afforded on our own such as artificial intelligence technology that improves colon polyp detection during colonoscopy and helps reduce colon cancer rates. We also benefit from data-driven insights that help us identify high-risk patient populations, enhance our clinical decision-making, and improve outcomes.

– *Eric Newton, MD*, University Gastroenterology (Providence)

Our MSO partnership has helped us improve quality of care through support from a national medical director and participation in Medicare's Comprehensive Kidney Care Contracting program. Our electronic medical record system—developed with our MSO partner's support—helps guide patient care and improve outcomes in chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease patients.

– *Mike Thursby, MD*, Nephrology Associates (East Providence)

Our MSO partner has helped us recruit fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeons and other talented providers who we previously lost to academic medical centers and hospital systems. This helps us expand access to the highest quality care in the lower-cost community setting, while ensuring we maintain full autonomy over the care we provide our patients.

– *Michael Bradley, MD*, Ortho Rhode Island (Warwick)

Our practice is the only independent cardiology group serving patients across Rhode Island. With the help of our MSO partner, we are in the process of establishing an "urgent care" option for patients with same-day visits to treat atrial fibrillation, congestive heart failure and chest discomfort to avoid/decrease hospitalizations.

– *Joseph Mazza, MD*, Cardiovascular Institute of New England (Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, Woonsocket)

Our MSO partner provides financial and human resources support we need to recruit talented physicians to Rhode Island who might otherwise choose higher-paying markets such as Massachusetts and Connecticut. At a time when many local practices are closing and physicians are retiring or leaving the state, this support helps us remain competitive in hiring new physicians and advanced practice providers and ensures we can maintain access to gastrointestinal care for our community.

– *Ravi Nadimpalli, MD, University Gastroenterology (Portsmouth)*

## **Provide Care in Underserved Communities**

My practice cares for patients in underserved areas in Providence. We are the primary nephrology group used by Providence Community Health Centers. We work in Woonsocket and parts of Johnston that have underinsured patients and patients at risk for renal disease. And with a nationwide nephrologist shortage, the improved efficiencies our MSO partner provides on the business side of our practice gives us back more time to focus on our patients.

– *Mike Thursby, MD, Nephrology Associates (East Providence)*

Without the support of our MSO partner, we would not be able to sustain our longstanding relationships with free clinics and community health centers. In today's challenging reimbursement environment, serving uninsured and underinsured populations at this level would not be financially feasible without the stability and business support of our MSO.

– *Eric Newton, MD, University Gastroenterology (Providence)*

We are able to furnish patients with a critical access point for surgical procedures in our communities. This is crucial given our hospitals continued struggles with staffing. Our MSO partner's administrative and financial support helps us remain a reliable provider of high-quality, cost-efficient orthopedic care in the community.

– *Peter Pizzarello, Ortho Rhode Island (Johnston, Providence and Warwick)*

**If you would like to learn more about RIIPPA, please contact Margaret Sweeney (mhogansweeney@fscapitol.com) or Teresa Paiva-Weed (tpaivaweed@fscapitol.com) at F/S Capitol Consulting, LLC.**