

## **HDNCMS MEMBER BENEFITS**

### **Member Publications**

Through “*The Bulletin*”, membership mailings and broadcast faxes, the Society disseminates information to member physicians on new state and federal legislation affecting physicians and the health care industry, as well as information on activities of other physicians and medical societies throughout the state. “*The Bulletin*” is published monthly.

### **Patient Referral Service/ Background Resource**

The HDNCMS receives approximately 100 calls per month from individuals seeking the services of a physician and/or wishing background information on a physician. Staff refers patients to member physicians accepting new patients.

### **Pictorial Membership / Resource Directory**

Published annually with “Updates” published in “*The Bulletin*” listing members and applicants of the HDNCMS. Facilitates professional referrals and recognition. Included are: professional information and specialty listings by geographic location, hospital listings, drug representatives, local pharmacies, advanced practice clinicians, non-member index, etc. The “Directory” is a valuable tool for physicians and their staff as well as other agencies/organizations who work with the health care field.

### **Communication and Public Relations**

The HDNCMS Public Relations Committee and Speakers Bureau are involved with the media communicating the positive message of medicine to the public. It serves the media as an information resource and arranges for physician members to be interviewed by the media in the interests of medical education. Through our Speakers bureau, requests for physician speakers to local clubs, organizations and schools are scheduled.

### **Grievance Arbitration**

Informally through the staff and formally through the Public Service Committee, the Society helps resolve dispute, controversy, contention or grievance arising between members or between members and others, involving relations with the public and Principles of Medical Ethics. (*Complaints regarding non-members will be referred to the Medical Board of California Complaint Line*)

### **Representation at Public/Private Agency Meetings**

Society appointees represent physicians’ interests at a wide variety of meetings relating to health care.

### **Informational Source to Community**

The HDNCMS acts as a central and authoritative source of information to other agencies in the community for questions relating to physicians and the practice of medicine.

### **Forum for Discussion**

Through the general membership meetings and periodic committee meetings, the Society provides an opportunity for members to discuss current issues affecting medicine.

### **Continuing Medical Education Consortium**

The Consortium plans and provides educational conferences and seminars for physicians, other allied health professionals in the area. The Consortium is accredited by the CMA-IMQ to provide Category I CME credit for educational programs which meet accreditation guidelines.

### **Notary Public Services**

Offered at no charge to members. Arrangements made through Society office.

### **Insurance Programs**

Through your Society/CMA, we provide a variety of Insurance Options for you and your office employees (Health, Disability, Business Overhead, Workers Comp, etc). The HDNCMS also offers and endorses Norcal Mutual Insurance Co. for your malpractice coverage.

### **Looking for a Physician Out of the Area?**

The HDNCMS can assist in locating physicians and other component medical societies outside of our area. Give us a call if we can be of assistance.

### **Medical/Legal Questions**

Through our resources and access to legal council, the HDNCMS is a source to physicians for medical/legal opinions with regard to matters affecting their medical practice. A copy of the California Medical Association's Physician Legal Handbook is available for our members at the Medical Society office.

### **Physicians Placement Opportunities**

The HDNCMS acts as a resource to physicians interested in relocating to this area and a resource for practice needs of our members.

### **Office Staffing**

The HDNCMS networks with the CMAA, Redwood Region and the Northcoast Association of Advanced Practice Clinicians and other health-related professional organizations for office staff needs and keeps a listing of persons interested in "fill-in" coverage.

### **Entertainment Discounts**

HDNCMS members may obtain discount cards through the society office for Marriott's, Winchester Mystery House and Knott's Berry Farm.

### **Well-Being of Physician Program**

HDNCMS offers confidential help to physicians whose ability to practice is impaired due to alcohol, drug abuse, emotional or physical infirmities - through the Physician Well-Being Committee. CMA also has a confidential phone number physicians can utilize.

### **List of Physician License and UPIN Numbers.**

For billing purposes, a list of License and UPIN Numbers is available to our members. Requests must come from our members direct or their office manager.

### **List of Pharmaceutical Representatives.**

A list of Pharmaceutical Reps covering Humboldt and Del Norte counties is kept up-to-date with regular contacts through our Consortium Coordinator. Members or their office managers may contact the Society office for a list. **Members are encouraged to refer any new representatives to the Society office.**

**Got a Question/Problem? Give the Society a call - if we don't know we'll find out/get it for you! 442-2367 (465-0980)**

## **ORGANIZED MEDICINE WORKS FOR YOU**

Membership in the Humboldt-Del Norte County Medical Society is the first step into the community organized medicine - a federation that speaks for you, and provides services for you. Founded in 1886, HDNCMS is one of 42 component medical societies chartered by the California Medical Association. Membership in the HDNCMS requires simultaneous membership in CMA.

### **CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

CMA policies are set democratically through representatives whom you elect to the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees. These governing bodies draw upon the expertise of their members and upon the more than 100 CMA commissions, committees and project task forces whose mandates range from Medi-Cal to professional liability to communications. CMA is your legislative advocate, a watchdog over government regulatory agencies, a legal counselor on behalf of the profession, and your public representative to the statewide news media. CMA is a constituent state unit of the American Medical Association. AMA membership is voluntary but as a HDNCMS member you are automatically eligible.

### **AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

AMA represents your profession to Congress. It battles the national regulatory agencies on your behalf. It operates the nation's largest physician placement service. It develops programs

for physician-hospital relations. It brings health care information to the public. It is the national voice of medicine.

With your AMA membership you receive the benefits of the world's largest scientific publisher: *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *American Medical News*, and one of nine specialty journals - to keep you current scientifically and socioeconomically.

### **HOW YOUR SOCIETY IS GOVERNED**

HDNCMS is governed by officials elected annually by the membership. Members vote for all officers and directors and for trustees and delegates/alternate delegates to represent them at district levels.

HDNCMS's four officers are President, President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Immediate Past President. All serve one-year terms.

The Executive Committee consists of six members, three appointed by the President and three elected by the membership-at-large, expanding the Executive Board to ten.

The Board acts as the fiscal and administrative arm of the HDNCMS and handles all decisions and actions of the Society.

HDNCMS members also elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the House of Delegates of the California and American Medical Associations to represent you at the state and national levels.

The HDNCMS helps your profession to meet its collective responsibilities to the public and tries to nurture a favorable public concern toward your profession by helping people understand and appreciate medicine's contribution to the public welfare.

HDNCMS helps guide the development of medical practice in relation to other callings and economic groups and helps to protect your legal status as a physician.

HDNCMS controls the depredations of the small minority of doctors whose interest in the profession is only an economic one, at the same time, protects the public against exploitation by quacks and frauds, and keeps medical competition on a professional and ethical plane.