



NYS Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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August 20, 2018

Linda Krebs
NYS Department of Financial Services
Property Bureau – MLMIC Demutualization
One State Street
New York, New York 10004

Dear Ms. Krebs,

The New York State Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons (NYSSOS), representing over 1800 orthopaedists, fellows and residents in New York, maintains a specific focus on improving access to care, promoting public health and facilitating improvement of patient safety and quality of care. A number of our members are MLMIC policyholders. Respectfully, this is the lens through which we provide the following comments.

NYSSOS is proud to partner with MLMIC to identify risk management strategies that improve patient safety and quality of care, as well as remediate aspects of the adverse medical liability environment in New York State.

Launching later this year is a joint project between NYSSOS and MLMIC seeking to reduce the occurrence of nerve injuries from hip and knee replacement procedures. This groundbreaking partnership will analyze data to identify pre and post operative elements involved in an occurrence, develop communication and education to share with orthopaedists and the patient care and team in New York, and work collaboratively on related advocacy issues.

After the passage of unbalanced liability reforms in New York, NYSSOS is hopeful to continue to work with MLMIC in advancing legislation that will reduce the direct and indirect costs in New York's liability adjudication system. Together we are advocating to reduce the filing of meritless claims and turn the tide on defensive medicine and exorbitant insurance premiums.

We are encouraged that MLMIC's relationship with Berkshire Hathaway may expand our efforts to address other joint replacement procedures in the future as well as other patient safety projects and advocacy initiatives within the state.

Respectfully,

John M. Olsewski, MD, FACS