



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**  
Upstate New York  
Chapter

Governor Cuomo 5th executive order in office appointed a Medicaid Redesign Team to address the Medicaid system in a time of a fiscal crisis. The governor stated:

"It is of compelling public importance that the State conduct a fundamental restructuring of its Medicaid program to achieve measurable improvement in health outcomes, sustainable cost control and a more efficient administrative structure."

The MRT has been conducting hearings throughout NYS for the last few weeks to hear what the public and stakeholders had to say.

The Ideas and Proposals broke down as follows:

MRT members: 72 ideas  
The Public: 660 ideas  
Public hearings: 892 ideas  
Website: 2,341 ideas

From these, they took proposals and rated them across 5 points:

- 1) short frame affect
- 2) long term affect
- 3) quality
- 4) efficiency
- 5) overall impact

After a six hour meeting yesterday, the Medicaid Redesign Team accepted the Department of Health's recommendations. Shortly thereafter, the Governor accepted the MRT's recommendations and will send these proposals to the Legislature for consideration as part of the 30-day amendments he intends to release next week. **The Governor will be introducing a global cap on State Medicaid expenditures of \$15.109 billion.** The report included 79 recommendations to redesign and restructure the Medicaid program to be more efficient and get better results for patients.

Here are a few that will affect patients with MS:

- ❖ Proposal 1058: Maximize Peer Services: to Explore Medicaid reimbursement for peer services such as support, care coaches, and recovery coaches.
- ❖ Proposal 147: Eliminate or modify unnecessary regulations and improvements for capital access.
- ❖ Proposal 200: Change in scope of practice for mid-level providers to promote efficiency and lower Medicaid costs.
  - \*\* This suggests using more nurse substitutes (closely controlled) in homes. "Lower level staff" to lower cost of in home care. \*\*This raises an issue of patient safety and is not being supported by the "Visiting Nurse Service of New York" This could potentially mean that aids dispense medication and make medical determinations, which is not in their scope of knowledge.

For a complete list of issues or to learn more about the MRT please visit the website:

[http://www.health.state.ny.us/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/health_care/medicaid/redesign/)