



About the Wisconsin Dermatological Society (WDS)

The WDS provides support for continuing medical education in the field of dermatology, and collaboration among dermatologists to address issues affecting the cutaneous health of the people of Wisconsin. The WDS is the only organization which represents the state's dermatologists. We sponsor biannual educational meetings in Madison and Milwaukee, social events following these programs and at the AAD's annual meeting, as well as other educational, philanthropic, and legislative activities.

What Is a Dermatologist?

Dermatologists are medical doctors and surgeons who specialize in conditions involving the skin, hair, and nails. A dermatologist can identify and treat more than 3,000 conditions, including eczema, psoriasis, and skin cancer, among many others. Patients see dermatologists for issues that are more than skin deep. Skin problems can harm patients' sense of self-worth, create discomfort that makes everyday activities difficult, and, in some instances, threaten lives.

The skin is our first line of defense against disease, protects other organs, warms us up and cools us down, and sends messages about how healthy we are inside. With over 12 years of training to care for people of all ages, no one has more experience than dermatologists to address concerns with skin, hair, and nails.

If you were to watch a dermatologist at work on any given day, you might see them:

- Treat a baby's prominent birthmark that threatens the child's eyesight
- Remove a mother's deadly melanoma at its earliest, most treatable stage
- Offer relief for a student whose chronic eczema makes sleep nearly impossible
- Diagnose the life-threatening liver condition causing a grandfather's unbearable itching
- Treat the hair loss of a young woman, helping her gain the confidence to complete a job search

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Current Issues of Importance

Telemedicine is an alternative to face-to-face medical care at a time of physician shortages and declining patient access. The WDS supports legislation that appropriately expands the use of telehealth services to meet the needs of underserved communities and populations through pilot projects, reasonable modifications to state licensure restrictions and liability concerns. We encourage provisions that require reimbursement and establish telehealth definitions, standards of care, prescription policies and scope of practice parameters.

Scope of Practice describes procedures that a healthcare practitioner may undertake in keeping with the terms of their professional license. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are expanding their scope of practice into dermatology and performing procedures despite limited training and lack of uniform regulations. Additionally, aestheticians, cosmetologists, and electrologists are performing medical aesthetic services without the on-site supervision of a dermatologist. It is the WDS' position that these practitioners cannot appropriately provide this level of care.

Rx Pricing Transparency is needed as spending on medications in the U.S. increases each year. Improved transparency on drug pricing would give hospitals access to pricing information that they could use when communicating with manufacturers to establish rates. Similar to transparency of hospital prices and costs, drug pricing transparency would also hold manufacturers accountable for the prices being charged for medications. The WDS believes that prescription price transparency plays an integral part of our transition into value-based care.