

CHAPTER 148.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

- 148.01 State society.
 148.02 County societies.
 148.03 Nonprofit plans for sickness care.

148.01 State society. (1) The state medical society of Wisconsin is continued with the general powers of a corporation. It may from time to time adopt, alter and enforce constitution, by-laws and regulations for admission and expulsion of members, election of officers, and management.

(2) A member expelled from a county medical society may appeal to the state society, whose decision shall be final.

148.02 County societies. (1) The physicians and surgeons, not less than five in number, of the several counties, except those wherein a county medical society exists may meet at such time and place at the county seat as a majority agree upon and organize a county medical society, and when so organized it shall be a body corporate by the name of the medical society of such county, shall have the general powers of a corporation, and may take by purchase or gift and hold real and personal property. County medical societies now existing are continued with the powers and privileges conferred by this chapter.

(2) Physicians and surgeons who, before April 20, 1897, received a diploma from an incorporated medical college or society of any of the United States or territories or of any foreign country, or who shall have received a license from the state board of medical examiners, shall be entitled to meet for organization or become members of the county medical society.

(3) If there be not a sufficient number of physicians and surgeons in any county to form a medical society they may associate with those of adjoining counties, and the physicians and surgeons of not more than fifteen adjoining counties may organize a medical society under this chapter, meeting at such time and place as a majority agree upon.

(4) A county medical society may from time to time adopt, alter and enforce constitution, by-laws and regulations for the admission and expulsion of members, election of officers, and management, not inconsistent with the constitution, by-laws and regulations of the state society.

148.03 Nonprofit plans for sickness care. (1) The state society, or a county society in manner approved by the state society, shall have the power to establish in the state or in any county or counties therein, a nonprofit plan or plans for the sickness care of indigents and low income groups, and others, through contracts with public officials, and with physicians and others, and by the use of contributions, cooperative funds, and other means, provided only that free choice of physicians within such contracts shall be retained and that responsibility of physicians to patient and all other contract and tort relationships with patient shall remain as though the dealings were direct between physician and patient. Any person covered by or insured under such plan shall be free to choose for sickness care any medical or osteopathic physician licensed to practice in Wisconsin who has agreed to abide by such plan according to its terms and no such physician or osteopath shall be required to participate exclusively in any such plan.

(2) Such plans shall be governed by the provisions of s. 200.26 and by no other law relating to insurance unless such law is referred to in s. 200.26 and no law hereafter (1959) enacted shall apply to such plans unless they are expressly designated therein or refer to such organizations as are responsible for the operation of such plans.

The insurance plan can limit coverage to care provided by licensed physicians and surgeons and the insurance commissioner cannot require the insurer to pay for services provided by podiatrists or specifically exclude such services. State Medical Society v. Manson, 24 W (2d) 402, 129 NW (2d) 231.