

MPS NEWS

Volume 36, Number 7

Editor: Heidi Bunes

November 2022

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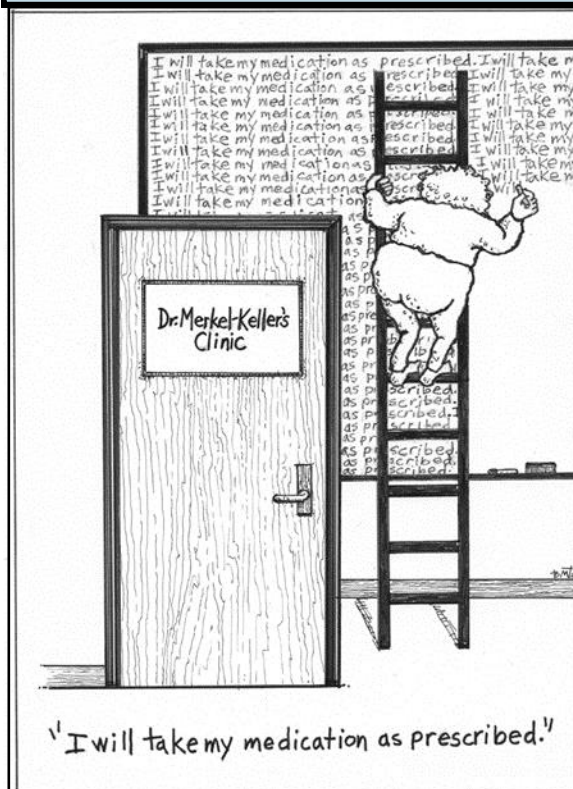
Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email heidi@mdpsych.org.

MPS News Design & Layout
Meagan Floyd

The MPS Council will meet by videoconference on November 8th at 7:30 PM. All members welcome!

President's Column

Staying Current



Dear Colleagues,

The MPS will resume its in-person fall psychopharm program for the first time since the pandemic started! Join us for our CME event:

[Psychopharmacology Update](#)
Saturday, **November 19, 2022** at
Martin's West in Baltimore
from 8 AM to 1 PM.

We bring you the most up-to-date and engaging topics, breakfast, and, meaningfully, the chance to see your colleagues.

Warmly,

Jessica Merkel-Keller

Psychopharmacology Update: 2022

**Saturday November 19th
8 AM - 1 PM**

**Martin's West
Baltimore**

COVID PHE Extended Through January 11

On October 13, the Public Health Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic was extended for another 90 days. Officials have said they will give 60 days' notice before ending the PHE, which has enabled free vaccines, testing and treatment for COVID, and flexibilities to expand Medicaid coverage and access to telehealth.

Nominations for Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award

The [Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry](#) presents an annual award to recognize a worthy piece published in a major newspaper that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Shares with the public their experience with mental illness in themselves, a family member, or in the community.
- Helps others to overcome their inability to talk about mental illness or their own mental illness.
- Imparts particularly insightful observations on the general subject of mental illness.

The article should be published during the period from January 15, 2022 to January 15, 2023. A Maryland author and/or newspaper is preferred. [Click here](#) for past winners and published articles.

The award carries a \$500 prize, which is given at the Maryland Psychiatric Society annual meeting in April. Please send nominations to mfp@mdpsych.org by **January 16, 2023**.

The MFP is organized for educational and charitable purposes. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

Thank You!

The following members paid additional MPS dues for 2023 even though they qualify for reduced dues because of their Rule of 95 life status. **We appreciate your support of the Maryland Psychiatric Society!**

William T. Carpenter, M.D.
Lawrence P. Costello, M.D.
Jesse M. Hellman, M.D.
David Goodman, M.D.
Lisa S. Hovermale, M.D.
Mercedes Rizo, M.D.
Elias K. Shaya, M.D.
Daniel D. Storch, M.D.

MPS Best Paper Awards

To recognize outstanding scholarship by young psychiatrists in Maryland, the MPS established annual "best paper" awards in 2013. Previous winners are listed [here](#). The Academic Psychiatry Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2022 Paper of the Year Award in two categories:

Best Paper by an Early Career Psychiatrist Member (ECP): Eligible psychiatrists are ECP members who are first authors of papers published or in press in 2022. Thanks to generous funding from the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry, the winner will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2023.

Best Paper by a Resident-Fellow Member (RFM): Eligible psychiatrists are Resident-Fellow members who are first authors of papers that were written, in press, and/or published in 2022. Thanks to generous funding from the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry, the winner will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2023.

Best Paper by a Medical Student Member (MSM): Eligible students are Medical Student Members who are first authors of papers that were written, in press, and/or published in 2022. Thanks to generous funding from the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry, the winner will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2023.

Scholarly work of all kinds (e.g., scientific reports, reviews, case reports) will be considered. If you would like to nominate a paper and author, please email the paper to either of the co-chairs below by **January 31**. Please include a brief explanation of why you believe the work is worthy of special recognition.

*Matthew Peters, M.D. mpeter42@jhmi.edu
Traci Speed, M.D., Ph.D. speed@jhmi.edu
Academic Psychiatry Committee Co-Chairs*

Poster Contest for Residents & Fellows

The MPS poster competition for our Resident-Fellow Members will be held again this year, with all entries displayed at our annual meeting in April 2023! Thanks to generous funding from the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry, the winner will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the meeting. Two finalists will also be selected and will receive **\$100 each** in addition to complimentary tickets.

The winners in past years are listed [here](#). Please [click here](#) for complete details about the process and requirements. **The deadline to enter is January 31**. Electronic copies of posters are due **February 10**. For more information, or to apply [please click here](#).

October MPS Committee Chairs Meeting

Dr. Merkel-Keller reviewed the role of committee chairs and encouraged collaboration toward the MPS [Vision, Mission & Values](#). She noted [MPS strategic priorities](#) and asked for ideas to improve MPS efforts to grow its membership, engage members, and increase non-dues income. Dr. Young suggested that MPS could target institutions to pay dues on behalf of their psychiatrists, which Sheppard Pratt does for its employees. This could be another tool for recruiting psychiatrists to fill openings. Dr. Merkel-Keller requested feedback on the idea of holding fundraising events. Dr. Vidal asked whether there could be a new type of membership for organizations that offers different, but related benefits.

The [2022 MPS member survey results](#) were shared in advance and Dr. Merkel-Keller summarized respondent characteristics and asked how to increase engagement and address member input. Dr. Hanson suggested that chairs can speak with residents about their committee's activities and encourage participation. Ms. Bunes reported that Council agreed to fund recoding of legislative districts for addresses in the MPS database. Once complete, this will enable outreach to a larger group of members to involve them in grass roots lobbying. Dr. Means asked how MPS member engagement compares with that of other APA District Branches. While there is a wide range of DB sizes and activities, MPS engagement compares favorably with DBs and with other non-profit groups.

Dr. Merkel-Keller then revisited [MPS Goals for Addressing Structural Racism and Inclusion](#) and asked for a brief update.

- Dr. Hackman said the Community Psychiatry & Diversity Coalition is planning a CME to help some patients avoid incarceration and it met with Black Psychiatrists of America to explore collaboration.

- Dr. Hanson said the Legislative Committee supported a [bill](#) to encourage more diversity among mental health professionals that finally passed in 2022 after stalling in the 2021 session.

- Dr. Brandt noted that Dr. Means and the Ethics Committee contributed to a successful [Impact of Racism in Maryland Psychiatry CME](#) and diversified the membership of its group.

Dr. Merkel-Keller thanked everyone for these important steps in the continuing process of MPS examining its practices and addressing structural racism as an organization. She asked how we can build on these initiatives. Ms. Bunes said that Black Psychiatrists of America has an initiative to encourage more Black students (high school, college, and medical school) to choose psychiatry as their profession. Given the new Maryland law, there may be a role for MPS to collaborate in that effort. Possible opportunities were suggested, including City/Poly in Baltimore City, [Thread](#), and the new osteopathic medical school to open at Morgan State University in 2024.

MPS Membership

Medical Student Members

Kaitlin L. Ballenger
Vishwanath Betapudi
Mahima Dewan
Kerrigan Dougherty
Dowon Kim
Hannah Kim
Parker James Lee
Claire Elizabeth Macatee
Nawal Mahfuza Shams
Monica Taneja
Christine Wan
Caroline Jinsil Yi

Reinstatement

Rascha Dughly, M.D.
Stephanie H. Walsh, M.D.

2023 MPS Dues Notices

The first 2023 MPS dues invoices were sent by email at the end of September and will be sent via USPS in October. After no change in rates since 2018, Council voted for a 7.95% increase this year.

To pay your MPS dues:

- Mail a check made payable to "MPS" to 1101 St Paul Street, Ste 305, Baltimore, MD 21202 -**OR**-
- Pay online using a debit or credit card or Paypal account at [this link](#) or via your MPS [member account](#).

Please email mps@mdpsych.org with questions or concerns or call the MPS office at 410.625.0232. Thanks for your continued support of the Maryland Psychiatric Society!

MPS Members Out & About

Congratulations to **Karen L. Swartz, M.D.** who appears on the cover of the November *Baltimore Magazine* Top Docs issue.

Anna Yegiants, M.D., Ph.D. is an intern with the *ABC News* medical unit doing stories with a mental health focus.

Karen M. Dionesotes, M.D., M.P.H. was interviewed for [MedCast](#), the podcast series from MedChi featuring notable experts and legislators.

Psychopharmacology Update: 2022

Saturday November 19th

8 AM - 1 PM

Martin's West
Baltimore

IN PERSON!

AGENDA

8:00-8:30AM

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:35AM

Welcome: Joshua Chiappelli, M.D.

8:35-9:35AM

A Critical Lens on the Acute and Enduring Effects of Psychedelics on Brain Function, Cognition, & Emotion

Manoj Doss, Ph.D.

9:35-9:45AM

BREAK

9:45-10:45AM

Treating Opioid Use Disorders in Pregnancy

Alexis Hammond, M.D., Ph.D.

10:45-11:45AM

Pharmacological Approaches to Targeting the Sleep-pain Interaction

Traci Speed, M.D., Ph.D.

11:45-12:00PM

BREAK

12:00-1:00PM

Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Adolescent Mental Health

Hal Kronsberg, M.D.

Only \$75 for
MPS members!

Includes 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits, breakfast and break.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register today!

Fees are non-refundable.

COVID Health & Safety:

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. Although The Maryland Psychiatric Society has instituted reasonable practices in an attempt to lessen or reduce the spread of COVID-19, we cannot guarantee that you will never get exposed to the virus or get sick from it. By attending a Maryland Psychiatric Society event, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

While we look forward to this event, the health and safety of our guests remains our top priority. Please do not attend the event if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Muscle Aches
- Headache
- Chills/Shaking
- Lost sense of taste/smell

Individually packaged masks, as well as hand sanitizing stations will be available for participant use.

Physician Contract Negotiations

**Protect Yourself.
Know Your Value.**

FEATURING
STEPHEN H KAUFMAN, J.D.

Mr. Kaufman's entertaining and informative free presentation explains the business, financial and personal aspects of physician employment contracts using examples and humor. Learn the pitfalls and traps of employment contracts and how to avoid them. This lecture is a must for anyone considering signing an employment agreement.



November 17th
7:30pm



ID: 419 237 9446
PW: MDPSYCH



- The negotiability of employment contracts
- The fundamental parts of employment contracts
- The differing economic interests and objectives of an owner and associate

Steve Kaufman is a founding partner of RKW Law Group. He represents physicians in a wide variety of matters, including employment contracts, employment issues, licensing issues and litigation. He can be reached at 410-802-7585 and by email at skaufman@rkwlawgroup.com.

Maryland News

2022 Maryland Election Information

The Maryland General Election is November 8. Election officials have updated County, State, and Congressional districts for the new district boundaries that are set every ten years following the U.S. Census. [Learn more about redistricting and polling places here.](#)

Early voting runs from 7 AM to 8 PM October 27 to November 3 at a [center in the county where you live.](#)

MedChi Medical Museum

The [MedChi medical museum](#), not formally named, held its soft opening in conjunction with the Annual Thomas E. Hunt, Jr., M.D. History of Maryland Medicine Lecture on September 20. The museum features MedChi becoming a more diverse, both in its membership and its presidents. Another permanent exhibit is a display of sixty bookplates from a collection of more than two hundred. More exhibits, including medical books from the collections of Dr. John Archer, the first person to receive a medical diploma in the United States; Dr. Upton Scott, MedChi's first president; and Sir William Osler, former MedChi president and founding physician at Johns Hopkins will be coming to the museum soon. For now, the museum will be open by appointment only, and during events at MedChi. To request an appointment, please contact [Meg Fairfax Fielding](#).

Maryland Physicians Health Program

It can be hard for doctors and other healthcare clinicians to ask for help when they realize that something is wrong. They may feel alone and unsure about where to turn. The Maryland Physicians Health Program has been helping physicians and the medical community with drug and alcohol use problems for more than 30 years. The MPHP provides physicians, PAs, and other allied health professionals guidance, support, and advocacy, along with referrals to high quality treatment in a confidential and private setting. Call MPHP for assistance at 410-962-5580 or 800-992-7010 or e-mail [Mike Lulfrio](#).

Request Authorization to Receive Out-of-Network Services for Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders

The Maryland Insurance Administration held a program for consumers to explain how to use the new provisions of the balance billing law that takes effect January 2023. [Click here for the slides.](#)

OCSA Updates

The Office of Controlled Substances Administration (OCSA) posted [updates](#) regarding temporary CDS registrations expiring November 30:

The MDH data systems have been restored and permanent CDS registrations are being issued. If you have already applied to the OCSA you should not reapply.

Many CDS temporary letters were issued, and the Department is working to issue permanent registrations by 11/30/2022. You can continue to practice with CDS until the Department has made a final decision if you received a temporary CDS registration letter or your application was received prior to two weeks before your expiration date.

Permanent CDS registrations will be sent electronically to the email address listed on the application. OCSA will no longer issue paper registration certificates.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

Veterans Crisis Line

MDH 988 Toolkit resources for veterans have been added in honor of Veterans Day on November 11. Maryland veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and press 1 to be transferred to the Veterans Crisis Line. More information on the MDH 988 Toolkit resources for veterans are available [here](#). Detailed information on the Veterans Crisis Line can be found [here](#).

[Free promotional materials](#) for all Marylanders, including ads, posters, wallet cards, and more are available. [Click here](#) to learn more about 988 in Maryland.

Out-of-Network Consumer Education Resources

Beginning January 2023, Marylanders with state-regulated private health insurance plans ([click for info on state-regulated plans](#)) can get mental health and substance use disorder treatment from a provider who is not in their plan's provider network without paying high out-of-pocket costs if a network provider is not available. To help educate the public about the new requirements, the Legal Action Center has developed tools that are available on their [website](#).

The Maryland Insurance Administration has posted each carrier's procedure for requesting approval for non-participating provider services on its [website](#).

Maryland News

Audit Report on MDH BHA ASO

On October 25, the Office of Legislative Audits released a [report](#) of its fiscal compliance audit of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) – Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) for November 13, 2017 to June 30, 2021 and the Medical Care Programs Administration (MCPA) Administrative Service Organization (ASO) for Behavioral Health Services for January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. MCPA is responsible for overseeing the ASO, Optum Maryland. The audit determined that MDH's accountability and compliance level was unsatisfactory. MDH's response on behalf of BHA and MCPA is included as an appendix to the report.

Finding 1 – The MCPA evaluation of the ASO technical proposals was not sufficiently comprehensive or documented.

Finding 2 – MCPA did not ensure that the ASO's claim processing system was functioning prior to launch, resulting in system deficiencies that required the ASO to make \$1.06 billion in estimated payments to providers, of which approximately \$223.5 million has not been supported or recovered.

Finding 3 – MDH did not conduct audits to ensure that the ASO properly authorized behavioral health services.

Finding 4 – MCPA and BHA did not ensure that the ASO performed a sufficient number of provider audits, that the audits included financially material and current transactions, and that any overpayments and deficiencies were corrected.

Finding 5 – Redacted cybersecurity-related finding.

Finding 6 (Policy Issue) – A lack of ASO vendor compliance with a certain contract requirement prevented MCPA from obtaining enhanced federal funding.

Finding 7 – MCPA did not timely investigate and resolve claims paid by the ASO for which federal reimbursement was denied or approved for a different amount than the amount paid.

Public Behavioral Health System Alert Estimated Payment Forgiveness Deadline Extended

According to Optum Maryland, half of the providers who are eligible for having \$25,000 of their balance waived have not connected with their assigned specialist who can assist with this process. Email maryland.provpymt@optum.com if you have questions about recoupments of overpayments you received in 2020. Read further for more details.

The Maryland Secretary of Health has authorized a 30-day extension for providers to accept the previously announced **forgiveness of \$25,000 for balances owed** to the State because of overpayments during the Estimated-Payment Period from January 1, 2020 to August 3, 2020. The deadline to take advantage of this final extension is **November 18**. (See excluded categories below.)

1. All outstanding amounts of \$25,000 and less are forgiven. There is no further action to take for providers who fall into this category. If your account is undergoing reduction (clipping) for recoupment and your current balance has fallen to or below \$25,000, the remaining balance is forgiven.

2. Outstanding amounts above \$25,000 that are repaid by midnight November 18 down to a balance of \$25,000, will have the remaining \$25,000 forgiven. There will be NO further extensions to this deadline. To qualify for forgiveness, checks must be postmarked no later than **November 18, 2022**.

3. All providers with an Estimated-Payment balance of \$0, who have repaid all or part of their balance due with a wire transfer or check (i.e., cash payment), will have that cash payment reimbursed up to \$25,000, excluding any outstanding negative-State or -Medicaid balances due.

4. The following categories are EXCLUDED from forgiveness:

1. Hospitals
2. Laboratories
3. Out-of-state providers
4. No-offset providers (i.e. providers who never submitted claims against the Estimated Payment amounts received)
5. Somatic providers

Please see [this link](#) for more details. For questions, please email a Reconciliation Manager at maryland.provpymt@optum.com or call Customer Service at 1-800-888-1965.

Billing for Professional Services in the ER

Optum Maryland clarified that providers need to have any specialty for which they are certified or board eligible included in their provider file via [ePrep](#) to prevent possible Medicaid Behavioral Health denials. Physicians who experience a denial for a service rendered in the Emergency Room for a carved out diagnosis of [Mental Health](#) or [Poisoning](#) (referenced in COMAR 10.67.08.02) should contact Optum Maryland at marylandproviderrelations@optum.com and reference the [October 31 provider alert](#).

Maryland News

MedChi House of Delegates Preview

Several Resolutions at the November 5 MedChi meeting are of interest to MPS members. Please use [this link](#) and scroll down to find the details for each.

ME Report 1-22 on *Prior Authorization* and Resolution 13-22 *Reform Utilization Laws*. Prior auth is a continuing priority for the MPS Legislative Committee.

Resolution 15-22 *Modernization of the Maryland Impairment Guidelines* and AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

Resolution 16-22 *Healthcare Transparency* is consistent with concerns raised on the MPS listserv about patient confusion regarding what kind of professional is providing their treatment.

Resolution 18-22 *Emergency Medical Services Requirement for Individuals Experiencing Emergency Medical Conditions While in Custody or in Contact with a Police/Peace Officer*

Maryland Telehealth Update

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is required by [Chapter 70](#) (House Bill 123) and [Chapter 71](#) (Senate Bill 3) of the 2021 Laws of Maryland, *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021* to study the impact of telehealth as it relates to use of audio-only and audio-visual technologies in somatic and behavioral health interventions. **MHCC, in consultation with select State agencies, must submit recommendations on telehealth coverage and payment levels relative to in-person care to the Senate Finance and the House Health and Government Operations committees by December 1.**

The MHCC and Maryland Insurance Administration have prepared draft recommendations that take into consideration study findings, stakeholder feedback, and lessons learned from the public health emergency. The draft recommendations and supporting rationale are being incorporated into a final report that will provide direction to the Maryland General Assembly on how to approach future legislation.

[Click here](#) for more information.

BHA-MedChi Webinars

The Behavioral Health Administration and MedChi webinar series, *Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve*, is for behavioral health and medical providers of all disciplines in both community and hospital settings. They enhance health care provider self-care and the care they provide by addressing the pandemic, social justice issues, and other stressors. **CME credits are free.** Recordings are archived on the BHA/MedChi [webinar page](#). The programs run from **5 to 6 PM**:

November 10 [Approach to Insomnia](#)
Beverly Fang, M.D. Moderator: TBD.

November 24 No Webinar

Equal Treatment Maryland

The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition's Equal Treatment Maryland campaign aims to engage newly elected officials regarding opportunities for improving the behavioral health system to ensure that Marylanders can access care when and where needed. The platform includes a series of initiatives to improve outcomes, reduce costs and keep people out of crisis and emergency rooms. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Scam Alert

A member posted a notice on the MPS listserv that a colleague in Howard County alerted him to a scam targeting physicians and asked him to pass the information along.

The colleague got a call on their cell phone from someone claiming to be from the Howard County police. The caller ID displayed the correct number for the HoCo police department. The caller knew this colleague was a physician, said they had been appointed to appear in court and had missed the court date, so now there was a warrant out for their arrest and they had to pay a bond fee. Apparently the scammers were very skilled. This colleague was very rattled and wants to alert other physicians in the area.

Open Enrollment Starts November 1

Go to www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov to view new plans and click [Get an Estimate](#) to browse. For those who apply during open enrollment November 1, 2022–January 15, 2023, coverage dates depend on timing. Enroll by December 31 for coverage beginning January 1. Enroll January 1–15, 2023 for coverage beginning February 1. Go to [Maryland Health Connection](#) for more details.

Maryland News

Addressing Widening Disparities in Overdose Outcomes among Black Marylanders

On October 25, Maryland's Racial Disparities in Overdose Task Force released its [Policy and Programmatic Recommendations for Addressing Widening Disparities in Overdose Outcomes among Black Marylanders](#). The Task Force recommendations are:

- Expand Low-Barrier & Holistic Access to Treatment Services
- Reduce Stigma for People who Use Drugs
- Increase Harm-Reduction in Non-Traditional Settings
- Increase Transparency in State & Local Resource Allocation

In 2021, the four jurisdictions with the highest number of opioid overdose deaths among Black Marylanders were Baltimore City (673) and Prince George's County (121), followed by Baltimore County (83) and Anne Arundel County (42). Task Force members include psychiatrists Denis G. Antione, II, M.D. and Billina Shaw, M.D. [Click here for the complete report](#).

FREE MPS CME!

A 2-credit virtual CME program, [Using the Sequential Intercept Model to Address Disparities that Lead to Incarceration](#), will be held Thursday **December 1 from 7 to 9 PM**. Four speakers will address:

- Overview of the Sequential Intercept Model
- Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment Within the Justice System
- Advocating with Judges: Access to Treatment Not Jail
- Impact of Jail/Prison Stay on the Patient Population

This event is free for MPS members. [Please click here](#) for more information or to register.

Refer a Colleague and Support the MFP

The Professional Risk Management Services, Inc. (PRMS) "[Refer a Colleague](#)" program resulted in a recent \$200 donation to the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry!

For each referral to its medical professional liability insurance program, PRMS donates to the referring physician's district branch or foundation (regardless of whether insurance is purchased)! This is an easy way to boost financial support for public awareness activities in Maryland.

PRMS Fact vs. Fiction Resource

When the psychiatrist for whom I was covering returned from vacation, they asked for my notes on the patients I had spoken with. I let them know that I was going to keep my original notes and send them a copy. While my colleague felt this was unnecessary and seemed uncomfortable with me retaining notes of interactions with their patients, it is prudent to keep my notes from my covering activities. What do you think - fact or fiction?

ANSWER: Fact! While it is certainly appropriate to forward copies of your notes of your interactions with the other psychiatrist's patients to the other psychiatrist, the risk management advice is to also keep a copy of those notes for yourself. In the unlikely event of a lawsuit by the other psychiatrist's patient, you could become enmeshed, either as a defendant or a witness, depending on the allegations. In either event, your notes from your interactions are crucial to your ability to explain your interactions with the patient, if required to do so.

USPSTF Recommendations

In October, the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued two final recommendation statements. Please see the links below for details and resources:

- [Screening for anxiety in children and adolescents](#) aged 8 to 18 years
- [Screening for Major Depressive Disorder in adolescents](#) aged 12 to 18 years

New SAMHSA Funding

SAMHSA [announced](#) over \$59 million in block grant awards to states and territories, including almost \$1.3 million to the Maryland Department of Health. This funding is for mental health emergency preparedness and crisis response. In addition, it said \$50 million is available to states for the expansion of 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline services.

Earlier, SAMHSA [announced](#) a new [funding opportunity](#) for states to develop and transform Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), which provide 24/7 crisis services and serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay.

Recovery Education for Adults Experiencing Homelessness

A free, virtual, .5 CME course describes the findings of the first Recovery Education Centers in Canada, one of the few worldwide specifically supporting people transitioning out of homelessness. [Click here](#) for more info or to take the course.

Medicare Updates

2023 MIPS Virtual Group Election Period

A virtual group must submit an election to CMS for each year it intends to participate in MIPS via email to MIPS_VirtualGroups@cms.hhs.gov by **December 31**. Groups approved for 2022 that will continue in 2023 must submit an election to CMS. A virtual group is a combination of 2 or more Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) consisting of:

- Solo practitioners (defined as the only clinician in a practice) who are [MIPS eligible](#); and/or
- Groups that have 10 or fewer clinicians (at least one clinician within the group must be MIPS eligible). A group is considered to be an entire single TIN.

A virtual group determines its own makeup; a solo practitioner or group can participate in one virtual group per year.

Benefits of a Virtual Group include collaborating, sharing resources, increasing performance volume to be measured, and potentially increasing performance under MIPS.

A virtual group must:

- Establish a formal written agreement between each TIN within the virtual group (see Agreement Template in the Virtual Group Election Process Guide in the 2023 Virtual Group Toolkit).
- Identify an official virtual group representative.
- Include the following elements in the agreement:
 - Acknowledge that a formal written agreement has been established between each TIN in the virtual group.
 - The name and contact information for the official virtual group representative.
 - The name and TIN for each practice, and all associated National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) under each TIN.

Email the election via MIPS_VirtualGroups@cms.hhs.gov by **December 31** (see email sample in the Group Election Process Guide in the 2023 Virtual Group Toolkit). The [Toolkit](#) has information about MIPS participation, reporting requirements, the election process, checklists, and templates.

TMS in Treatment of Adults with MDD

The proposed Medicare coverage for Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) in the Treatment of Adults with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is approved **effective 12/11/22**. For more details, please see:

[Billing and Coding for TMS A57072](#) – codes and required documentation.

[Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\) L34998](#) – guidance for limitations and medical necessity.

Billing and Coding Updates

CMS Article [Billing and Coding: Psychiatric Codes](#) (A57130) was revised and published on 10/20/2022 to reflect the Annual ICD-10-CM Code Updates, effective for dates of service on and after 10/01/2022. Many ICD-10-CM codes for dementia and one for other reactions to severe stress have been added: F01.511, F01.518, F01.52, F01.53, F01.54, F01.A0, F01.A11, F01.A18, F01.A2, F01.A3, F01.A4, F01.B0, F01.B11, F01.B18, F01.B2, F01.B3, F01.B4, F01.C0, F01.C11, F01.C18, F01.C2, F01.C3, F01.C4, F02.811, F02.818, F02.82, F02.83, F02.84, F02.A0, F02.A11, F02.A18, F02.A2, F02.A3, F02.A4, F02.B0, F02.B11, F02.B18, F02.B2, F02.B3, F02.B4, F02.C0, F02.C11, F02.C18, F02.C2, F02.C3, F02.C4, F03.911, F03.918, F03.92, F03.93, F03.94, F03.A0, F03.A11, F03.A18, F03.A2, F03.A3, F03.A4, F03.B0, F03.B11, F03.B18, F03.B2, F03.B3, F03.B4, F03.C0, F03.C11, F03.C18, F03.C2, F03.C3, F03.C4, F43.89 in Group 1.

The following codes have been deleted: F01.51, F02.81, F03.91, F43.8 in Group 1.

For the following codes the description has changed: F01.50, F02.80, F03.90, G31.09, G31.83, G31.84 in Group 1.

Psychiatrists should now be using updated ICD-10-CM codes. The codes impacting psychiatry are outlined in APA's 2022 [DSM-5-TR Update: Supplement to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders](#) and [DSM-5-TR Neurocognitive Disorders Supplement](#).

Billing and Coding for Esketamine

A CMS [article 59249](#) has billing and coding guidance for SPRAVATO™ (esketamine) when administered at healthcare sites enrolled in the FDA risk evaluation and mitigation strategies (REMS) program. The article takes effect on **11/14/22**.

Care Compare Update

CMS has expanded the archive for Doctors and Clinicians in the [Provider Data Catalog](#) on Care Compare to include Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) performance data since 2017. Previously, CMS reported one year of MIPS data at a time. Adding historic data supports transparency and aligns the information reported for all provider settings.

Caution: [CMS cautions against using the historical data for year-to-year performance comparisons](#). Several aspects of MIPS and reporting standards make such comparisons inappropriate, especially measure-level performance over time.

APA News & Information

September 30 APA BOT Meeting Highlights

APA Area 3 Trustee Geetha Jayaram, M.D. emphasizes the following from the most recent Board of Trustees meeting:

- Active assimilation of the commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that has made many inroads in the execution of our activities, although more needs to be done
- Positive financial health of the organization
- Active work of the Foundation and the Political Action Committee
- Inclusion of research results in shaping the education of members
- Increase in graduate medical education slots with emphasis on need for students of minority background
- And lastly, we await the Area-specific member survey results.

Please email Dr. Jayaram at gjayara1@gmail.com with any questions or feedback.

[Editor's additions from Dr. Levin's report:

- Due to low paid registrations for the October 2022 event, the Division of Education will study the current format of the Mental Health Services Conference, engage attendees at the conference, survey the market, and prepare a report for the December 2022 Board Meeting. The goal of this report is to identify and propose changes that will ultimately lead to a viable and sustainable conference.
- Close to 100,000 units of DSM-5-TR are in circulation and so far 2022 sales of DSM products exceed \$12M.]

November APA Assembly Preview

The Assembly will meet virtually on November 5-6 with a long agenda. Five reference committees have reviewed Action papers as well as Position Statements to be revised, retained, or retired.

A few of the Action Papers for consideration include:

- Advocating for Financial Equity and Responsibility in ABPN Certification
- APA Champions Firearm Safety
- Ensuring Quality of Care and Privacy as Large Retail Organizations Enter Health Care

Some of the Position Statements to be decided are:

- Mental Health and Climate Change
- Use of Jails to Hold Persons Without Criminal Charges Who Are Awaiting Civil Psychiatric Hospital Beds
- Remuneration for Psychiatrists' Time Performing Utilization Review

Please email the Assembly Representatives from MPS, [Anne Hanson, M.D.](#), [Elias Shaya, M.D.](#), and/or [Brian Zimnitzky, M.D.](#) for details.

FREE APA Course of the Month

The **November Course of the Month – Advocacy for Anti-Racist Policies That Expand Equitable Access to Mental Health Care** - aims to embolden participants in their paths to becoming clinician advocates by providing practical skill building. Examples of effective actions clinician can take to support policy change, as well as resources will be discussed. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

Videos on Commonly Searched Disorders

APA has a new series of animated explainer videos on commonly searched mental disorders and other conditions related to mental health. Topics include OCD, Depression, Anxiety, ADHD, and Climate Change, among others. See all of the [videos in English here](#), and [in Spanish here](#). [Subscribe to APA's YouTube Channel](#) as new videos on other topics and disorders are added regularly.

APA Emerging Topic – Climate Change

The **November 4** webinar, [Facing the Hard Truths About Our Climate Disaster– Psychiatry's Role in Preparing society to accept a necessary shift in the Cultural Paradigm](#), is free for members. 1.5 CME credits. [Click here](#) for details or to register.

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