



MPS NEWS

Volume 39, Number 4

Editor: Meagan Floyd

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email jhritz@mdpsych.org.
MPS News Design & Layout
Jora Hritz

**The MPS Council
will meet by
videoconference on
September 9 at 7:30 PM.
All members welcome!**

President's Column

Scope of Practice and Proposed Outpatient Mental Health Center Regulatory Changes

Scope of practice/"scope creep" is always noted as a point of concern for our MPS members. Specifically, the concern centers on lesser-trained practitioners, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants, advancing their practice areas in ways that we view as compromising the quality of care. I think we all appreciate the need to collaborate with mid-level practitioners to fully meet the needs of all those who require care. The questions have always been where the boundaries lie and when should a physician be a required part of care.

For those of you who practice in the public behavioral health system, you are likely aware of the active discussion that has been happening around Outpatient Mental Health Center (OMHC) regulations in Maryland. As a brief synopsis, six years ago, Maryland legislation allowed nurse practitioners to be medical directors of OMHCs. MPS strongly advocated against this legislation but failed in its opposition. Recently, the Behavioral Health Administration released proposed revisions to regulations that direct the structure of care in our community clinics. One of those proposed changes was the specification that a medical director of an OMHC must be a physician. This proposed change would result in the need to revert to a physician always leading the clinical care in our community clinics. This debate was complicated even further by the unearthing of Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations that specify even more rigorous physician involvement in community clinics.

Seeing this as an opportunity to correct a misstep, MPS is again taking an active role to make our opinion heard about this matter. Not only have we provided a [written statement](#) to the administration supporting the change, but we have voiced our concerns during meetings. Although we welcome working with our nurse practitioner colleagues as part of a care delivery team, we need to ensure that the treatment provided to some of the most vulnerable patients in the state is directed by a physician. To highlight this issue, I thought that a brief interview with Dr. Taylor Scott would be useful. Dr. Scott is the Chief Medical Officer with Catholic Charities of Baltimore and an MPS advisory council member. Our conversation demonstrates the need to have a well-trained, experienced physician leading care in OMHCs. You can watch [my interview with Dr. Scott here](#).

Ronald F. Means, M.D.
MPS President

Special Member Rate for MPS Directory Ad

MPS members can advertise their practice, new office location, specialty, new book, etc. for a special members-only rate of \$100 for 1/3 page in the directory. The 2025-2026 directory will be out in fall 2025, so order soon!

For details, email Jora at jhritz@mdpsych.org.

2025 MPS Member Survey

The annual MPS member check in on a variety of topics will be sent via email and USPS. Please respond to help guide how MPS committees, Council and staff will work for you in the coming year.

INCENTIVE: Three respondents who complete the entire survey and provide their names will be chosen at random for a **\$100 credit** that can be applied toward MPS dues or an MPS event.

[CLICK HERE](#) to start – this should take less than 5 minutes!



Member Update Forms

Your member update form will be sent this month via USPS, along with your Annual Survey. The MPS membership directory will be published in late Summer. Please ensure that your information on file with MPS is up to date. If you opt in, this data is also used for the online Find a Psychiatrist and the telephone patient referral service. Please indicate all insurance plans where you participate in-network. You can also log in to your member account on the MPS website to directly enter updates. **The deadline for directory changes is August 10th.**

Support for Medical Students

The MPS offers a free category of membership for medical students to help them learn more about psychiatry and connect to potential mentors. This includes access to MPS communications, interest groups, committees, and listserv. MPS membership is an invaluable opportunity for students looking to enter psychiatry. Email mfloyd@mdpsych.org to volunteer to serve as a resource to medical students.

Attention Graduating Residents

Congratulations! As you prepare to move on from your residency training program, please complete the [APA membership advancement form](#). This lets us know if you are continuing in a fellowship or advancing to practice. As a General Member, you can access additional benefits, including [resources](#) for early career psychiatrists. Your MPS dues will remain the same! The [form](#) takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society

Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award

Recognizing Residents, Fellows, and Early-Career Psychiatrists who demonstrate distinction in advocating for equity in psychiatry.

Each year, recipients will receive \$500 to aid in work that supports underrepresented individuals seeking psychiatric care.

Contribute to the Dr. Ikwunga Wonodi Award



Donate Here:



Email JHritz@mdpsych.org for more information

Expand Your MPS Engagement

Join the MPS Listserv

Join the online MPS community to quickly and easily share information with other MPS psychiatrists who participate. To join, click [here](#). You will need to wait for membership approval and will be notified by email. If you have any problems, please email mps@mdpsych.org.

MPS Interest Groups: Interest Groups are a way to connect with other psychiatrists around areas of mutual interest. Most communication occurs over email, but other options are possible. MPS members can opt in indefinitely to receive information and the opportunity to share news, ideas and concerns with participating members. Be sure to check out our new Collaborative Care Model interest group!

Engage with Digital Options

To stay informed, visit the [MPS website](#) regularly and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), formerly [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Moral Distress Survey

Moral distress occurs when physicians cannot carry out what they believe to be ethically appropriate actions to care for their patient because of institutional or systemic constraints. With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Physicians for a National Health Program is conducting this survey to better understand how moral distress impacts healthcare professionals and our patients. **Please take a moment to fill out the survey at pnhp.org/Survey.** The survey is IRB approved and adheres to rigorous human research protection standards set by AAHRPP, so your response is safe. This will take only a few minutes of your time, but your contribution will have a lasting impact on research around moral injury and physician wellness. You can learn more about the project here: [Understanding Physician Moral Injury - PNHP](#).

DEA Alert: Scam Targeting

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is warning medical practitioners of a growing scam involving fake letters and phone calls from individuals posing as DEA agents. These scammers claim the recipient is under investigation, in an attempt to steal personal or financial information.

Key Reminders:

- The DEA does not contact registrants by phone regarding investigations.
- DEA agents are forbidden from asking for payment, gift cards, or personal information.
- Legitimate contact will be made in person or by official letter.

If you receive a suspicious call or letter report the incident to the FBI at ic3.gov.

Submit the incident to the Federal Trade Commission, which takes reports at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and shares information with more than 3,000 law enforcement agencies at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. If you have shared personal information, visit identitytheft.gov to learn how to protect against identity theft. Please stay alert and report any suspicious activity immediately.

PRMS Q2 2025 Case of the Quarter

PRMS' latest "Case of the Quarter" column, a sample case study highlighting best practices in actual scenarios encountered through PRMS' extensive experience in litigation and claims management can be found on their website [here](#). This newest resource covers the topic of documentation and what improper documentation could cost a healthcare provider.

SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Last month the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the results of the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), which shows how people living in the United States reported their experiences with mental health conditions, substance use and pursuit of treatment. This year marks the first year since 2020 in which there are at least four years of comparable data for key NSDUH outcomes to enable reporting of trends.

MPS Membership

The following individuals have applied for membership Unless any current members have evidence that an applicant does not meet the criteria for ethical and professional standards, these actions will be approved 14 days after publication.

NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Volpone, M.D., BS, MA
 Alan Mohammed, M.D., BS
 Sachi Shastri, M.D., BS, BA
 Myles Vigoda, D.O.
 Bailey Brown, M.D.
 Crist Cuffee, D.O.
 Judy Lau, M.D.
 Erin Cova, M.D.
 Caitlin Evans, D.O.
 Divya Rajput, M.D.

TRANSFERS

Rachel M. LeMalefant, M.D.

Curbside Conversations is a listing of MPS members with expertise in specific areas who facilitate informal chats with fellow members seeking information. These are not formal consultations but a collegial resource offered voluntarily to the MPS community. Contact information for experts is available to MPS **members only** via email to mps@mdpsych.org.

Member Spotlight Submissions

Recently worked on an exciting research project, reached a milestone in your career, or have advice for younger psychiatrists? Submit a short article and photo [here](#) to showcase your experiences. We will share your responses on social media and in our newsletter. If you have any questions please call or text 410-625-0232.

Join us for the 2025
Maryland Psychiatric Society's

DAY AT THE BALLPARK!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7
@1:35 PM

Orioles Park at Camden Yards

CLICK HERE
FOR \$15
RFM AND ECP
TICKETS!

ALL OTHER
MEMBERS CLICK
HERE FOR
DISCOUNTED
TICKETS AT JUST
\$45!

All tickets include a \$15 food and drink voucher



Limited tickets available!

email JHritz@mdpsych.org with any
questions



**2 CME
CREDITS**

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

*An MPS program hosted by
the Community Psychiatry &
Diversity Coalition*

via Zoom from 6:30pm until 8:30pm



Lise Van Susteren, M.D.

Presenting on what environmental factors affect climate change and how fossil fuel pollutants and other man-made changes affect mental health and how to address and mitigate those risks for our patients in the clinical setting.



Gwen DuBois, M.D., MPH

Presenting on the fossil fuel industry's role in causing and covering up the climate crisis and pollution related morbidity and mortality; that nuclear power is not the answer; and how one Baltimore community has organized to no longer be victims of environmental injustice but to fight for their right to a healthy environment.



Cheryl Holder, M.D.

Presenting on factors that affect climate change and health around the world and how to mitigate those risks for our patients in the clinical setting.

Thursday
**SEPT
11TH**

**This Program
is Sponsored by**



Accreditation and Designation Statement

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by American Psychiatric Association (APA) and The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS). APA is jointly accredited by the American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

The APA designates this live activity for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Maryland News

Updated BHA Licensing Application Process

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is pleased to announce the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) new provider licensing portal. The portal launched on July 21st. This initiative is part of the BHA's continued efforts to enhance the provider experience while also improving the efficiency of the licensing application submission, tracking, and approval processes.

Key Features of the New Portal:

- A modernized external portal for submitting behavioral health provider licensing applications
- Self-service registration to easily create and manage user accounts
- Real-time submission, tracking, and status updates on licensing applications
- Automated document generation and digital signatures using DocuSign
- System enhancements and bug fixes to improve reliability and ease of use

A demo session was recorded and posted to the [BHA website](#) for providers to review. If you have any questions, please contact bha.licensingcompliance@maryland.gov.

Release of FY26 Fee Schedules

Maryland Medicaid has published its updated behavioral health provider fee schedules for fiscal year 2026, effective as of July 1, 2025. The impacted codes are the evaluation and management (E&M) service codes. The [new fee schedules](#) are noted below:

- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – Individual Practitioner and OMHC 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – BH Crisis Services 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – 1915i 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – Health Homes 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – PRP and Specialty Programs 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Billing Cascade – PRP 7.1.2025](#)
- [FY26 PBHS Fee Schedule – SUD 7.1.2025](#)

Updated Medicaid's Preferred Drug List

The Office of Pharmacy Services (OPS) published updates to the Maryland Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL) and Brand Preferred over Generic Program, effective July 1, 2025. Please [refer to their website](#) for the complete PDL and Brand Preferred over Generic List.

Termination of Procedure Code W5023

The Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025 (SB0372) was passed by legislation earlier this year, permanently allowing Medicaid services to be rendered via audio-only telehealth and reimbursed at the same rate as in-person services. To align with this law and current telehealth billing policies, procedure code W5023 "collateral (telephonic) caregiver peer to peer support" has been terminated on the 1915(i) fee schedule, effective June 30, 2025.

Effective July 1, 2025, 1915(i) Family Peer Support Services providers will only bill procedure code W5022 "caregiver peer to peer support" and use the following modifiers if a service was rendered via telehealth:

- Modifier GT for audio-visual telehealth, **AND**
- Modifier UB for audio-only telehealth

The [FY 2026 1915\(i\) Fee Schedule](#) is now available on Carelon's website. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov.

New Medicaid Fact Sheet and Consumer FAQ

Maryland Medicaid recently posted two new resources to their website:

- [Fact sheet with an overview outlining the impact to Maryland from the recent federal Medicaid reforms](#)
- [A consumer-facing FAQ about the new changes](#)

Both are linked from the Medicaid home page [HERE](#).

Delivery of Services through Telehealth

Last month, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office of Medical Benefits Management released a letter to all providers regarding the delivery of services through telehealth.

The letter confirms a permanent extension of Medicaid coverage for health services delivered via telehealth, including behavioral health. This coverage had previously been set to sunset on June 30, 2025. **To read the full letter and its details, please select this [link](#).**

Additional guidance regarding the delivery and reimbursement of telehealth services can be found on [Maryland Medicaid's Telehealth webpage](#). For questions related to this transmittal, please contact mdh.medicaidtelehealth@maryland.gov.

Maryland News

Maryland Pharmacy Services Free CME Credits

The Maryland Office of Pharmacy Services provides live continuing medical education (CME) and continuing education (CE) programs on timely issues with the latest research at no cost to participants twice a year. Previous seminars are available at: https://mmppi.com/previous_seminars.htm
Sign up for program notifications via email or text: Email: mdpharmacynews@gmail.com Text: Send YES CEs to 410.845.5551

Roadmap for Children's Behavioral Health in Maryland

MDH released the *Roadmap to Strengthen Maryland's Public Behavioral Health System for Children, Youth, and Families*, developed in partnership with the Maryland Coalition of Families and Manatt Health. The roadmap addresses the behavioral health needs of Maryland youth and families, helping them persevere and thrive. Access the [full roadmap](#) and the [executive summary](#). For more behavioral health resources and services for children and adolescents, visit the [BHA website](#).

Reminder: Authorization Grace Period Ends September 1, 2025

Carelon providers remain responsible for ensuring all authorizations are in place prior to Sept. 1, 2025. To avoid a backlog, please continue entering authorizations now. For more information, refer to the Provider Alerts issued on [May 8, 2025](#), and [June 26, 2025](#).

Visit the EQIP Curriculum

The **EQIP Curriculum** is now available on the CRISP Learning System! This is a great EQIP resource for you to save and share with practitioners as needed. I have included some information about the curriculum below along with the link to access.

The EQIP Curriculum was designed to give practitioners, practice managers, healthcare administrators, and other stakeholders a clear and comprehensive understanding of Maryland's Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). The EQIP Curriculum is divided into seven modules. Each module includes learning topics and a variety of educational materials. These modules include brief videos, slide decks, and downloadable guides.

Visit the EQIP Curriculum [here](#).

As a reminder, the EQIP enrollment period will officially close on Friday, August 29, 2025. Practitioners can email the EQIP Inbox at equip@crisphealth.org before **August 20** to learn if they are eligible for EQIP and get next steps for enrollment.

Creativity Connects

Creativity Connects is NAMI Maryland's statewide initiative that utilizes art, music, storytelling, and other creative outlets to raise awareness about mental health, build community, and inspire healing. Creativity Connects envisions a Maryland where communities unite through the power of creative expression to foster connection, promote healing, and transform how we talk about mental health. We create inclusive spaces that inspire hope, amplify voices, and spark change. Learn more: namimd.org

Join the MPS Listserv

MPS members are encouraged to join the listserv to easily share information with colleagues. An email message sent to the listserv goes to all members who have joined. Posts can be questions, information, thought-provoking articles and more. To join the listserv, please go to: <http://groups.google.com/group/mpslist> or email mps@mdpsych.org. The listserv is open to members only so you will have to wait for membership approval and will be notified by email. If you have any trouble, please call or text the MPS office at 410-625-0232.

Support for Medical Students

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CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Ellicott City: Full/part time office space for Psychologists with amenities and easily accessible via routes 40, 29,32, 695.

Advertise Position Openings and Office Space with MPS!

The MPS offers timely ads in [MPS News](#) (includes online post), [The Maryland Psychiatrist](#) and the MPS [home page](#). [Click here](#) for ad rates. Please help MPS generate non-dues income by using MPS ads to connect with psychiatrists.

APA News & Information

APA Statement on Passage of the Senate Version of H.R.1

The APA released a statement regarding the passage of the Senate Version of H.R. 1:

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) is very disappointed by the U.S. Senate's passage of H.R. 1, which would significantly cut Medicaid funding. If the House passes this bill, knowing that Medicaid is the largest payer of mental health and substance use disorder services, it will have unrepairable repercussions for patients and their families.

"This is a huge blow for access to health care in America," said APA President Theresa Miskimen Rivera, M.D. "In very real terms, this legislation will result in irreparable gaps in access to care for our country's most vulnerable, many of whom have mental health and substance use disorders, and they will suffer as a result."

"The country is already facing a mental health and substance use disorder crisis. We cannot afford to have patients lose access to vital Medicaid services," said APA CEO and Medical Director Marketa M. Wills, M.D., M.B.A. "We urge the House of Representatives to vote against this legislation. Despite this major setback, APA will continue to work for progress on behalf of psychiatrists and the patients they serve."

New APA Podcast Series: Addressing Youth Suicide

A new limited podcast series which premiered last week on APA's [Medical Mind](#) delves into the alarming research on youth suicide. Through in-depth conversations, the series aims to provide actionable strategies for mental health professionals, social service providers, families, and young people to foster resilience, connection, and hope in the face of this growing crisis.

Each episode features a dynamic pairing of a host drawn from the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) membership - leaders of APA's Minority and Underrepresented (MUR) Caucuses and an expert guest. We invite you to listen to the first two episodes via podcast streaming services including [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#).

Are you a General Member? Become an APA Fellow!

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Fellows of the APA (FAPA) are part of a select group dedicated to shaping the role of psychiatry in our healthcare system. Fellow status is an honor that enhances professional credentials and reflects dedication to the psychiatric profession. Dues rates stay the same. **The deadline is September 1.** Visit the [APA website](#) for more details and instructions for how to apply.

APA Advocacy Updates

2026 ONDCP Strategic Plan: On June 18, APA submitted a letter with recommendations to the 2026 National Drug Control Strategy. [Click here to read more.](#)

Congress Passes Budget Reconciliation Bill: On July 4, President Trump signed the final budget reconciliation bill into law. The law, which APA opposed, includes steep cuts to federal Medicaid spending. [Click here to read more.](#)

APA Expresses Concern Over Student Aid Provisions in Reconciliation Packages: APA joined leading physician groups opposing provisions in the House and Senate budget reconciliation bills which would limit the amount of federal loans students may borrow and disallow loan payments made during medical residency from counting toward public service loan forgiveness (PSLF). [Click here to read more.](#)

APA, MHLG Endorse Suicide Prevention Act : APA, alongside the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), endorsed the *Suicide Prevention Act (S. 1062)*. [Click here to read more.](#)

APA Requests Funding for Key Maternal Mental Health Programs: APA joined 105 organizations advocating for provisions and funding to address maternal mental health (MMH) in the FY26 appropriations bill. [Click here to read more.](#)

Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards

The APA is looking for programs that have made a significant contribution to the mental health field and provide an innovative model for others to follow. Each award recipient will be presented with a monetary award, a plaque, recognition at the 2026 APA Annual Meeting award workshop, and coverage in Psych News. [Click here to read more](#)

2025-2026 APA Foundation PASS Ambassador

The APA Foundation's (APAF) [Psychiatry Ambassadors and Student Scholarships \(PASS\) Program](#) provides funding opportunities for APA residents and medical student members to attend the APA Annual Meeting.

Please visit the Ambassador program [website](#) for more information. The deadline to apply is **December 1, 2025**. The application link is [here](#).

APA News & Information

Reminder: Apply for APA Awards

[APA Awards](#) recognize psychiatrists and other mental health advocates for their contributions to the APA and the field of psychiatry, for career recognition, lifetime service, outstanding research, and other categories that improve the lives of people with mental illness. [Please click here](#) for a complete list—and note that some awards have upcoming summer deadlines!

Check Out the New APA Communities

The revamped APA Communities platform makes it easier for members to connect, join conversations, and stay involved. It includes an enhanced member directory, improved navigation across communities and caucuses, and more. [Explore APA Communities →](#)

APA & NLBHA Strategic Collaboration to Advance Latino Health

Last month the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) announced a new collaboration aimed at advancing mental health equity and improving behavioral health outcomes for Latino communities across the United States.

This strategic collaboration will focus on increasing access to culturally responsive mental health services and evidence-based information, expanding the pipeline of Latino mental health professionals, and addressing systemic barriers that contribute to mental health disparities in Latino populations.

Through this partnership, APA and NLBHA will work together on a range of initiatives, including:

- Developing joint educational resources to raise awareness about mental health in Latino communities, such as APA's Spanish language resource website, [LaSaludMental.org](#).
- Promoting policies that support culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
- Conducting research and data analysis on Latino behavioral health needs and outcomes.
- Supporting workforce development and training programs for mental and behavioral health professionals working with Latino patients.

FREE APA Course of the Month

Each month, APA members have free access to an on-demand CME course on a popular topic. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

Member Publications

Curtis Adams, M.D. and **Ann Hackman, M.D.** published a commentary in *Psychiatric Services* titled "[Trust and Mistrust of Mental Health Services Among Black Adults](#)". They analyze a cross-sectional, post-COVID study examining mistrust of the health care system in the Black community.

Matthew Peters, M.D. published a new paper, "[Adding Perspective to Employee Mental Wellness: A Population Health and Psychoeducational Approach to Screening and Care Connection](#)." It describes the *Perspectives of Psychiatry* approach and how it was integrated into an employer-based mental health engagement program.

RFM Post-Residency Plans

Adam D'Sa, M.D. will be a psychiatrist at Lifestance Health in Beverly Hills, CA

Cyrus Gilbert, M.D. will be serving as director of consultation liaison psychiatry for the Brown Health system between hospitals in Providence and Newport

Liam Guenther, M.D. accepted an inpatient clinical psychiatrist position at Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville, MD

Nicole T. Juszczak, M.D. will be working as an inpatient attending at Samaritan Hospital in Troy NY

Janet Karanja, M.D. finished CAP fellowship and will be working as a Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist at Collaborative Counseling Center in Columbia, Maryland

Brian Jinho Lee, M.D., Ph.D. will be an Assistant Professor at Indiana University

Swetha Mummini, M.D. will be working for Talkiatry as an outpatient psychiatrist

Bryce Small, M.D. will be a Court Psychiatrist at the Office of Diversion and Reentry, Los Angeles County Health Services

Solomiya Tsybalyuk, M.D. will be completing a Forensic fellowship at University of Maryland

Bernadette Wharton-Hawthorne, M.D. will be an Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins Hospital Eating Disorders Program

Nathan Yueh, M.D. will be an Assistant Professor at University of Minnesota

Medicare Updates

CMS Proposes Policy Changes for QPP

CMS has issued its [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule \(PFS\) Proposed Rule](#), which includes proposed policies for the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) includes proposals for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs), as well as several Requests for Information (RFIs).

Specifically, proposing policies that:

- Continue the transformation of MIPS through MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs).
- Are responsive to feedback and concerns raised by interested parties.
- Maintain stability within the MIPS program through the established performance threshold.

Learn more about the QPP proposals by reviewing the following 2026 QPP Proposed Rule Resources:

- [2026 Quality Payment Program Proposed Rule Fact Sheet and Policy Comparison Table \(PDF, 841KB\)](#) – Provides an overview of QPP proposals and RFIs included in the CY 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Proposed Rule, and a comparison table contrasting existing policies with proposals.

2023 Preview Period for Doctors Reopened

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reopened the calendar year (CY) 2023 Doctors and Clinicians Preview Period on July 23, 2025. The Preview Period will remain open for 30 days, closing August 21, 2025, at 8 p.m.

CMS is reopening the Preview Period because 17 additional Quality Payment Program (QPP) performance measures were recently identified to be included in the CY 2023 QPP public reporting information. CMS also made additional updates and display corrections to the CY 2023 QPP performance data available during the Preview Period that closed in June. These added measures and updates affect what performance information will be released publicly on the profile pages of clinicians and groups on the Medicare.gov [compare tool](#) and in the [Provider Data Catalog \(PDC\)](#).

Even if you already reviewed your CY 2023 QPP performance information during the previous Preview Period, CMS encourages you to review your performance information again for any changes or updates before this information is released to the public. Once the Preview Period reopens, you'll be able to access the secure preview on the QPP website. CMS will also have revised educational documents reflecting the additions and updates.

2025 MIPS Exception Application Available

The 2025 Quality Payment Program (QPP) Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception application is available now through **December 31, 2025, at 8 p.m. ET**. This application allows users to indicate the reason they're unable to report data for one or more MIPS performance categories.

How to Apply

To submit either exception application:

- Sign in to the [QPP website](#) with your Health Care Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) account.
- Choose "Exceptions Application" from the left-hand navigation.
- Click "Add New QPP Exception" on the right side of the screen.
- Choose "Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception."

Additional Resources

- [Quality Payment Program Access User Guide](#) (ZIP, 4MB) – Refer to "Step 1: Register for a HARP Account."
- [Exception Applications \(webpage on the QPP website\)](#)
- [2025 MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception Application Guide \(PDF, 2MB\)](#)

2023 MIPS Program Analysis

The AMA has developed an analysis of the 2023 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) performance and participation data using the CMS public use file. [View here](#). There are also insights about MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs), which were new in the 2023 MIPS performance period, as well as the proposed Ambulatory Specialty Model (ASM) quality measures. We encourage you to take a look at the analysis to understand the impact of MIPS on physicians and their patients and to use it in your comments in response to the 2026 Medicare physician payment schedule proposed rule.

CMS RFI for Health Technology Ecosystem

APA submitted a comment letter in response to the CMS's Request for Information on the Health Technology Ecosystem. [Click here to read more](#).

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES for Psychiatrists at Sheppard Pratt

Applicants must be board certified or board eligible and have a current Maryland-issued license at the time of hire. Some positions require an on-call schedule.

Current openings Include:

Psychiatrist

The Center for Eating Disorders | Towson, MD

Service Chief

Adult Service Line | Towson, MD

Medical Director

Outpatient Mental Health Centers | Timonium and Baltimore City

Scan QR code to
see all openings



At Sheppard Pratt, you will be surrounded by a network of the brightest minds in psychiatry led by a bold vision to change lives. We offer:

- Robust resources to develop your career
- Cutting edge research and technology
- A generous compensation package with comprehensive benefits

For more information, scan the QR code or contact Kathleen Hilzendeger, Director of Professional Services, khilzendeger@sheppardpratt.org or 443-465-6142.

About Sheppard Pratt

Consistently ranked as one of the top ten psychiatric hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, Sheppard Pratt is the nation's largest private, nonprofit provider of mental health, substance use, special education, developmental disability, and social services. We employ more than 95 doctors who all share a passion for providing the best care to those we serve. Visit sheppardpratt.org to learn more about our services. EOE.



Sheppard Pratt

sheppardpratt.org