

MPS NEWS

Volume 39, Number 10

Editor: Meagan Floyd

February 2026

In This Issue

2026 MPS Election Slate	p. 2
Paper and Poster Contest	p. 2
Advocacy Day	p. 2
Anti-Stigma Award Nominations	p.2
January Council Meeting Notes	p. 3
Ikwunga Wonodi Award	p. 3
Member Accomplishments	p. 4
2026 MPS Annual Meeting	p. 5
2026 Trivia Night	p. 6
Maryland News	p. 7-8
MedChi's Legislative Priorities	p. 7
APA Updates	p. 9
Medicare Updates	p. 10

In Every Issue

Classifieds	p. 11
Membership	p. 4

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

The MPS Council
 will meet via Zoom on
 February 10 at 7:30 PM.
 All members welcome!

President's Column

2026 State of Psychiatry in Maryland Meeting

On January 28, 2026, MPS held the 2026 State of Psychiatry in Maryland Meeting. The original plan was an in-person meeting, but due to the dicey weather, we decided to pivot to a virtual meeting. Although disappointing that we were unable to meet in person, it was great to welcome many more attendees who were able to join virtually.

The goal of the program was to hear from behavioral health leaders across the state to discuss the rapidly evolving landscape of psychiatric care. An equally important goal was to join together in an effort to demonstrate collaboration across organizations. The esteemed panel included Rishi Gautam, MD – Chair of Psychiatry of Lifebridge Health, Elias Shaya, MD – Regional Medical Director of Behavioral Health MedStar North, Jill RachBeisel, MD – Department of Psychiatry Chair at University of Maryland School of Medicine, James Potash, MD – Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Johns Hopkins Medicine and Harsh Trivedi, MD – President and CEO of Sheppard Pratt.

Key themes and insights included the challenge with economic constraints and the unpredictable nature of current federal policy that shapes the delivery of psychiatric services. Scope of practice was a highlight as panelists discussed the dynamic of working with mid-level practitioners while also ensuring quality care. Balancing the utilization of telehealth with in-person services was also an active area of debate. Each expert shared perspectives rooted in their leadership roles from major hospital systems,

generating a rich discussion about Maryland's future.

Featured in [this month's MPS video blog](#) is an excerpt from the meeting. Panelists were asked to talk about accomplishments of which they are most proud. The video features a response from each. Overall, it was great event, and hopefully, attendees gained a clearer picture of both the challenges ahead and the powerful opportunities for growth, partnership, and patient-centered innovation. Many thanks to our great panelists and to all who attended. Hopefully, we can create opportunities for similar collaborative programs in the future.

Ronald Means, M.D.
MPS President

2026 MPS Dues Notices

**Members who have not yet paid their
 2026 dues are at risk of being
 dropped from both MPS and APA!**

To pay your MPS dues:

- Send your check to the MPS office (1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201), which reduces our credit card processing costs.
- Pay via Zelle: 410-625-0232 which also helps to reduce credit card processing costs. (See QR code on this page.)
- You can also pay dues via credit or debit card or PayPal at www.mdpsych.org (Select "Contact" and scroll to the "Pay Now" button).

Please email jhritz@mdpsych.org with questions. Thanks for your continued support of the Maryland Psychiatric Society!

Slate for 2026 MPS Election

President-Elect (1-year term)

Michael Young, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer (1-year term)

Rachna Raisinghani, M.D.

Council (2-year term, 4 vacancies)

Mohammed Akbar, M.D.

Cynthia Lewis, M.D.

Constance Lacap, M.D.

Robert Herman, M.D.

M. Haroon Burhanullah, M.D.

Idris Leppla, M.D.

Cynthia Fields, M.D.

APA Assembly Representative (3-year term, 1 vacancy)

Marsden McGuire, M.D.

Mark Komrad, M.D.

Nominations & Elections Committee

(3-year term, 2 vacancies)

Ann Hackman, M.D.

Virginia Ashley, M.D.

Brian Zimnitzky, M.D.

Doris Balis, M.D.

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 or on public media 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 or produced during the period from January 15, 2025 to January 31, 2026. A Maryland author and/or newspaper or major media outlet 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 **February 15, 2026**.

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

MPS Best Paper Award
Deadline Extended: February 15

The MPS established annual "best paper" awards to recognize outstanding scholarship by young psychiatrists in Maryland. Previous winners are listed [here](#). The Academic Psychiatry Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2025 Paper of the Year Award in three categories:

Best Paper by an Early Career Psychiatrist Member (ECP):
Best Paper by a Resident-Fellow Member (RFM):
Best Paper by a Medical Student Member (MSM):

Eligible applicants are ECP, RFM, and MSM members who are first authors of papers published or in press in 2025. The winners of each category will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2026. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

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, including your own, please email the paper to either of the co-chairs below by **February 15**. 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
Deadline Extended: February 15

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 2026! 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. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

Winners in past years are listed [here](#). Please [click here](#) for complete details about the process and requirements. **The deadline to enter is February 15**. Electronic copies of posters are due **February 25**.

MPS ADVOCACY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

On **February 18** from 8:30AM—1PM, we invite all MPS members to join us in Annapolis to meet with House and Senate leadership to discuss current and future legislation affecting psychiatry and mental health in Maryland. MPS lobbyists help with talking points and protocol. Contact Meagan Floyd via text (410-625-0232) or [email](#).

January 13 Council Minutes

Dr. Balis called the meeting to order at 7:36PM. She asked for anyone with a new conflict of interest to disclose it, and no one noted any conflict. Dr. Balis noted the Council Minutes for the November meeting, the psychopharmacology CME report and the Executive Director's Report were included in the consent agenda. After a few moments of review, Dr. Balis asked if there were any concerns or comments. Hearing none, the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Support for Strategic Priorities

Dr. Balis provided an update on activities that support MPS Strategic Priorities. She reported that since November:

- Distributed information on APA Fellowships to RFM members
- Scheduled and advertised MPS Advocacy Day for 2/18/26
- Scheduled RFM trivia night for March
- Held legislative training meeting with WPS/MPS members
- Held November CME meeting
- Advertised MPS paper and poster contest to RFM and ECP members
- Planning CME event for winter 2026
- Worked to nominate two residents for the Area 3 RFM award

Executive Committee Report

Dr. Means reported that since the November Council meeting the MPS has Published information regarding government shut down resources, licensure information, open comment period for new regulations, etc. and met with Behavioral Health Administration officials in December. He noted that these meetings will continue in 2026. The MPS Executive Committees also continues to schedule collaborative meetings with other Maryland stakeholders. Dr. Means updated Council on several upcoming MPS CME programs including "The State of Psychiatry in Maryland" on January 28th, and the joint meeting with the Southern Psychiatric Association, which will take place in September 2026 in Baltimore. MPS Staff are working on closing out the year end accounting to prepare for the CPA review, fourth quarter financials, as well as the CPA's report will be presented at the Council meeting in March.

Membership Committee Report

Ms. Floyd shared a request for dues relief that was submitted by a current member. After reviewing the request, Council agreed to approve the request, and recommends that APA does the same. Ms. Floyd will notify the member and APA of the Council's decision.

Nominations and Elections Report

Dr. Hackman presented the proposed 2026 election slate and asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Council closed the nominations and voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

President-Elect

Michael Young, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Rachna Raisinghani, M.D.

Council (four vacancies)

Mohammed Akbar, M.D.

Cynthia Lewis, M.D.

Constance Lacap, M.D.

Robert Herman, M.D.

M. Haroon Burhanullah, M.D.

Idris Leppla, M.D.

Cynthia Fields, M.D.

APA Assembly Representative (3-year term, 1 vacancy)

Marsden McGuire, M.D.

Mark Komrad, M.D.

Nominations & Elections Committee (3-year term, 2 vacancies, 4 nominees)

Ann Hackman, M.D.

Virginia Ashley, M.D.

Brian Zimnitzky, M.D.

Doris Balis, M.D.

Announcements

- Vote in APA Elections
- MPS is closed January 19th for Martin Luther King Day
- [State of Psychiatry CME: January 28th @ Sheppard Pratt](#)
- Next meeting February 10 at 7:30 PM via Zoom
- February 18 Advocacy Day in Annapolis
- March 3rd: Trivia Night for RFMs (Council members welcome!)
- 2026 Lifetime of Service Award - call for nominations
- Save the date – April 30 MPS Annual Dinner @ Mt Washington Tavern

Ikwunga Wonodi Award Application Deadline February 12!

The [Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award](#) is now open for application submissions.

The Wonodi Award honors a Resident, Fellow, or Early-Career Psychiatrist who has demonstrated distinction in advocating for human rights and equity in psychiatric care for people with severe mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities through teaching, research, clinical work, and/or public health advocacy. For more information on the award and application guidelines, [click here](#) or [visit the MPS website](#). The deadline to apply is **February 12, 2026**. A winner will be announced prior to the Annual Meeting in April 2026. Any questions can be directed to jhritz@mdpsych.org.

Thank You!

The following members paid additional MPS dues for 2026.
We appreciate your support of the Maryland Psychiatric Society!

Joanna Brandt, M.D.
 Lisa Hovermale, M.D.
 Jill Joyce, M.D.
 Thomas Allen, M.D.
 Virginia Ashley, M.D.
 Mark Ehrenreich, M.D.
 Jemima Kankam, M.D.

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.

Reinstatement

William Tobolowsky, M.D.
 Rishi Gautam, M.D.

Member Publications

Christopher W. T. Miller, M.D. published "[Absolute Psychiatry Review](#)", a comprehensive Q&A study guide for psychiatry trainees and practitioners. The book is a tool for serious learners who wish to gauge their knowledge base and for those who want to deepen their understanding of psychopathology and the mechanisms of psychopharmacologic and psychotherapeutic action.

Michael Bray, M.D., MSc first-authored a paper with co-authors **Christopher Morrow, M.D., MHS** and Medical Student **Jacob Shaw** published in *JAMA Psychiatry* titled "[Alzheimer Disease-Relevant Biomarker Elevations in Psychosis and Broad Neuropsychiatric Impairment](#)." The study examines the association of serum hyperphosphorylated tau and neurofilament light chain concentrations with psychosis in Alzheimer disease.

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.



Southern Psychiatric Association & Maryland Psychiatric Society Annual Conference

September 16 – 19, 2026

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel, Baltimore, MD



Black History Month

During Black History Month - and all year - Mental Health America is highlighting Black and African American contributions to the mental health movement. Systemic racism in the mental health system and movement harms Black communities. [Click here](#) for a non-exhaustive list of Black and African American mental health resources.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

February 26th through March 3rd is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. The National Eating Disorder Association's (NEDA) goal is to educate the public about eating disorders, spread positivity and hope to those with an eating disorder, and provide treatment to individuals. This year they are asking you to "**Get in the Know**" and learn about eating disorders, get involved in raising awareness, and share information and resources. [Visit NEDA for more information.](#)

Seasonal Affective Disorder Resources

As a behavioral health professional, you are not immune to the winter blues, and neither are your patients. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) symptoms often include behavioral changes like oversleeping, overeating, or social withdrawal. SAD can be treated with light therapy, medications, vitamin D supplements, and more. You can share and explore more resources from the [NIH website](#).

THE MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

2026 Annual Meeting

Join us as we celebrate our MPS
achievements made this past year

April 30, 2026
6:00 until 9:00

AT THE MT WASHINGTON TAVERN

Help us turn over the gavel to Tyler Hightower, M.D., MPH, incoming MPS President and welcome Michael Young, M.D. as the MPS President-Elect and Rachna Raisinghani, M.D. as Treasurer.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

GENERAL MEMBER TICKETS: \$85

EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRIST (ECP) TICKETS: \$50

RESIDENT-FELLOW TICKETS: \$35

Thank You to Our Sponsors

•MindWork Group•

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

TRIVIA NIGHT

MARCH 3, 2026
6:00PM - 9:00PM
@HOMESLICE MT VERNON

FREE FOR ALL MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC
RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

**CASH
PRIZES**

\$200

1st Place
Team

\$100

2nd Place
Team

\$50

3rd Place
Team

**OPEN
BAR**

REGISTER HERE

THANK YOU TO OUR EXHIBITORS



abbvie



YOU MAY RESERVE UP TO 2 TICKETS

Maryland News

MedChi Joins Suit Against Insurers

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, has joined a federal multidistrict litigation (MDL) against MultiPlan (recently rebranded to Claritev) and major insurers, including UnitedHealth, Elevance, Humana, Aetna, and Cigna, alleging they conspired to systematically underpay physicians for reimbursements for out-of-network services, which often fail even to cover operating costs.

MedChi joins the American Medical Association (AMA) and hundreds of physician practices and facilities nationwide in this growing antitrust litigation. This litigation seeks to hold MultiPlan and major insurance companies accountable for their alleged coordinated price-fixing scheme leading to under-reimbursement for out-of-network services.

For years, Maryland physicians were asked to deliver care to out-of-network patients while being paid significantly less for that care. This lawsuit is about fairness and accountability. Physicians deserve to be paid appropriately for the care they provide, and patients are harmed when payment practices discourage access to needed services.

This lawsuit, filed in the Northern District Court of Illinois in 2024, seeks to end MultiPlan's alleged anticompetitive scheme that has operated since at least 2015 and recoup financial damages for physicians and practices. As of 2024, MultiPlan processes more than 80% of all commercial out-of-network reimbursement claims in the United States.

Physicians who believe they have been harmed by MultiPlan and the insurance companies can obtain a free case evaluation from one of the law firms appointed by the court to lead the non-class claims or contact the firm at multiplanlitigation@agg.com.

2026 Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign Poster Contest

Calling all young Maryland artists! "No Judgment, Just Help" is this year's theme—it's the mission of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. This critical resource ensures no Marylander faces mental health challenges alone. The winning artwork will become the official 2026 Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign poster, inspiring people statewide to reach out for support. The contest deadline is February 6, 2026. [Click here for more information.](#)

MedChi Legislative Priorities for 2026

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is committed to strengthening Maryland's health care system and protecting the ability of physicians to care for their patients through legislative advocacy. MedChi's key legislative priorities for 2026 include:

Holding Health Insurers Accountable

MedChi will propose reforms to laws governing health insurance companies that delay patient care and allow insurers, not physicians, to determine what care is appropriate. Unnecessary credentialing delays prevent providers from joining insurer networks, and billing practices that enable insurers to reduce billed charges cause physicians to spend more time on administrative tasks than on patient care. Our legislation will tackle these problems.

Strengthening Medicaid and Access to Care

MedChi will safeguard Maryland's investment in Medicaid by making sure payments to providers are set at rates that encourage their participation. Evaluation & Management (E&M) payment rates should be 100% of Medicare E&M rates to ensure access to care for all Marylanders.

Protecting Maryland's Medical Liability Environment

MedChi will fight efforts to weaken current liability protections for health care providers, such as legislation that repeals or increases non-economic damages caps, or that lowers standards for awarding punitive damages. Exposing physicians to higher damage awards increases their malpractice insurance costs and only worsens the State's severe physician shortage.

New Carelon Trainings Available

Carelon has developed new training content and added it to the [Training Library](#) on the Carelon website. These instructional videos guide you through submitting authorizations via [ProviderConnect](#) for various services, including both outpatient and inpatient SUD and mental health services, school-based services (SBS), supported employment (SEP), targeted case management (TCM) for children and adolescents, and psychiatric rehabilitation programs (PRPs). To access each training, please select the following:

- [Outpatient SUD Services](#)
- [Inpatient SUD Services](#)
- [Outpatient Mental Health Services](#)
- [Inpatient Mental Health Services](#)
- [School-Based Services \(SBS\)](#)
- [Supported Employment \(SEP\)](#)
- [Targeted Case Management \(TCM\) – Child and Adolescent Services \(Youth\)](#)
- [Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs \(PRPs\)](#)

Maryland News

Vital Statistics Administration Quarterly Report

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Vital Statistics Administration (VSA) released its preliminary **Q2 (January-June) 2025 Report on Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths**. This report reveals overall declines in fatal overdoses, but an increase in carfentanil-related deaths. MDH urges all stakeholders and partners to [review the full report](#) and utilize the data for critical public health planning and resource deployment with the understanding that these data are preliminary and subject to change.

Key Findings

- **Overall Fatalities Down:** Maryland saw a **34.8% reduction in total overdose fatalities** in the first half of 2025, as compared to the first half of 2024 (977 to **637 deaths**).
- **Significant Increase:** Carfentanil-related overdose deaths have increased from 11 deaths in the first half of 2024 to **27 in the first half of 2025**, among 515 total opioid-related deaths in the first half of 2025. The majority of these deaths occurred in combination with fentanyl.
- **Call to Action:** Carfentanil is approximately 100 times more potent than fentanyl and poses a significant overdose risk. Naloxone remains effective in reversing the effects of carfentanil and should be used whenever an overdose is suspected. We recommend partners prioritize reinforcing overdose response training and ensuring [naloxone availability](#).
- **Learn more** about carfentanil identified in Rapid Analysis of Drugs samples from a [public health alert](#) in August 2025.

Maryland Overdose Prevention Awareness Rally

Maryland's Second Annual Overdose Prevention Awareness Advocacy Day Rally will be on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 9 to 10:30 am** at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis! This event will bring together individuals and organizations committed to raising awareness and advocating for meaningful action to address the impacts of the overdose crisis in our communities. Featured speakers include Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response Emily Keller, and other state and local officials. Community organizations will be invited to speak as well. Register to attend at <https://forms.gle/AwTroi4zLmgadN2d7>.



Strengthening Crisis Response While Managing Risk and Liability

SAMHSA has released [988 & 911: Strengthening Crisis Response While Managing Risk and Liability](#), a publication to help states, counties, Tribal nations, and local communities strengthen coordination between the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and traditional 911 emergency response systems. Since the nationwide launch of 988, many communities have successfully redirected behavioral health crisis calls away from law enforcement-led responses and toward specialized mental health support. However, concerns about legal risk, liability, and interagency coordination have slowed progress in other regions. This new framework directly addresses those concerns with practical, actionable guidance. The integration of 988 and 911 is essential to ensuring people experiencing mental health crises receive the right response at the right time. This framework helps communities move forward by clarifying roles, reducing perceived risk, and building trust across systems.

APA News & Information

Apply for 2025-26 APA Fellowships

The [APA/APAF Fellowships](#) application is open through March 17, 2026. Fellowships provide psychiatry residents experiential learning, training and professional development to become leaders in the field. Fellows receive mentorship from APA member experts, get exclusive opportunities to be a part of APA leadership councils, and network with APA members from around the country.

[Fellowships](#) include:

- APA/APAF Leadership
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Community Diversity
- Diversity Leadership
- Edwin Valdiserri Correctional Psychiatry
- Jeanne Spurlock Congressional
- Public Psychiatry
- Psychiatric Research
- SAMHSA Minority

Register Today for the 2026 Annual Meeting

[APA's Annual Meeting](#) is returning to **San Francisco, May 16-20**, bringing together psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and allied professionals for 4.5 days of collaboration and clinical growth.

With **400+ sessions** across **40+ topic areas**, attendees have an array of opportunities to earn CME or CE credits while connecting with colleagues who bring diverse perspectives to mental health practice.

Expect new experiences such as the **Biological Sciences Hub**, returning favorites like the **Community Psychiatry Hub**, and relevant educational sessions like these AM25 highlights:

- [ADHD Across the Lifespan](#)
- [New Vistas in Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders](#)
- [Sleep: From Childhood to Aging](#)

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 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.

Early-Career Psychiatrist WhatsApp

The MPS ECP WhatsApp Group is a way for members who are within 7 years of completing their training to communicate and collaborate with each other. This group is similar to our MPS Listserv but dedicated to *only* our ECP members.

[Fill out this form to join](#) and, once approved, we will send an invite link for access to the group.

[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.

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.

Psychiatrists with Immediate Patient Openings Available

The MPS maintains a list of members who can see new patients quickly. An *updated* "[MPS Members Actively Taking New Patients: Appointments Within 1-2 Weeks](#)" will appear on <https://mdpsych.org/> later this month. Please email mfloyd@mdpsych.org to be included (include name, patient types, insurances accepted, phone number/email, etc.) and/or consider referring patients to this resource. Patients can also try [Find a Psychiatrist](#), but the wait time may be longer.

Medicare Updates

Open Payments Annual Refresh 2026

The Open Payments data is updated to reflect changes that took place since the June 2025 publication. The updated dataset is available at <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>. The Open Payments data is refreshed once annually to include updates from disputes and other data corrections made since the initial data publication.

The refreshed Open Payments data reflects the following:

- **Record Updates:**
 - Changes to non-disputed records made on or before November 15, 2025, are published.
- **Disputed Records:**
 - Dispute resolutions completed on or before December 31, 2025, are displayed with the updated information.
 - Records with active disputes that were not resolved by December 31, 2025, are displayed as disputed.
- **Record Deletions:**
 - Records deleted before December 31, 2025, are removed from the Open Payments published dataset. Records deleted after December 31, 2025, remained in the published dataset, but will be removed during the next data publication in June 2026.

The following is **not included** in the data refresh:

- Any records attested to after March 31, 2025.
- Any disputed records in which the resolution resulted in a change to the covered recipient.
- Changes made to non-disputed records after November 15, 2025
- Changes made to disputed records after December 31, 2025.

Applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) submitted the Open Payments data; CMS publishes the data as received and does not alter the data in any way. For more information about Open Payments data publication, visit www.cms.gov/openpayments.

Submit questions to the Help Desk via email at openpayments@cms.hhs.gov or by calling 1-855-326-8366 (TTY Line: 1-844-649-2766), Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (ET), excluding Federal holidays. The Help Desk refers media inquiries to CMS' Press Office for response.

2026 Quality Benchmarks and Other Resources

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the QPP website to include 2026 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) webpages and resources. CMS published 2026 historical benchmarks for quality measures on the [Benchmarks webpage](#) of the QPP website. Benchmarks are the point of comparison we use to score the measures you submit. Your performance on each measure is compared to its benchmark to determine how many points the measure can earn. From the [Benchmarks webpage](#), you can download:

- [2026 Quality Benchmarks](#)
- [2026 Quality Benchmarks User Guide with Scoring](#)
- [Examples \(PDF, 1.3MB\)](#)[2026 Multiple Performance Measure File \(XLSX, 135KB\)](#)

2025 QPP Data Submission is Now Open

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has opened data submission for the 2025 performance year of the Quality Payment Program (QPP). Data can be submitted and updated until March 31, 2026, 8 p.m. ET.

How to Submit and Review Your 2025 MIPS Data

Follow the steps outlined below to submit data:

- Go to the QPP [sign in page](#).
- Sign in using your QPP access credentials.
- Submit your data for the [2025](#) performance year or review the data reported on your behalf by a third party. (You can't correct errors with your data after the submission period, so it's important to make sure the data submitted on your behalf is accurate.)

Helpful Medicare Resources for Small Practices

- [Small Practices webpage on QPP website \(Link\)](#)
- [2026 MIPS Quick Start Guide for Small Practices \(PDF, 2MB\)](#)
- [Small Practice Guide: Getting Started with MIPS CQM Reporting \(PDF, 1MB\)](#)
- [MIPS 2025 Small Practice Eligibility and Participation FAQs \(PDF, 676KB\)](#)
- [How to Participate as a Group in MIPS \(VIDEO\)](#)
- [Do I Need to Participate in MIPS? How to Check Eligibility Status \(VIDEO\)](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Ellicott City: Full/part time office space with amenities and active in-office listserv for Mental Health Practitioners. Easily accessible via routes 40, 29,32, 695. Contact Dr. Mike Boyle at 410-206-6070, psycmike@gmail.com.

Ellicott City/Waverly Woods/Columbia: near Rt. 70, Rt. 32 and Rt. 29. Office and Group Room are in a beautiful suite ready for immediate occupancy. Daily and hourly rentals are available. Includes large fully furnished office with 2 windows, large beautifully decorated waiting room, receptionist/file room, 2 bathrooms, Kitchen and a warm community of other therapists who cross-refer. WiFi and fax available. Free ample parking. Contact Jenniferplassnig@gmail.com or 410-203-2411.

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.

ADVERTISE WITH MPS TODAY!



We offer:

- **E-Newsletter Ads**
- **Website Ads**
- **Event Sponsorships**
- **Email Blasts**

AND MORE!!

Contact:

jhritz@mdpsych.org 443-990-3280

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

Psychiatrist

Child and Adolescent Inpatient | Towson, MD

Psychiatrist

Adult Inpatient | Towson, MD

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

WHY PRMS?

CONSIDER THE PROGRAM THAT PUTS PSYCHIATRISTS FIRST.

Since 1986, PRMS® has provided professional liability insurance for individual healthcare providers and group practices across the country, delivering customized insurance products, preeminent risk management services, and unparalleled claims and litigation expertise.

As the field of psychiatry evolves, we're here for our doctors with timely risk management support, updates, and the latest resources. Our psychiatry-specific expertise, paired with our long-standing ability to defend and support our clients, allows us to keep you covered — with more than an insurance policy.

Before selecting a partner to protect you and your practice, make sure your carrier offers what we can:

- Telepsychiatry coverage at no additional cost
- Up to \$150,000 medical license defense at no extra charge
- A national program with comprehensive coverage that can cover patients treated anywhere in the U.S.
- State- and psychiatry-specific risk management alerts
- Network of defense attorneys skilled in psychiatric litigation throughout the country

Contact us for a quote today!



WENDY FAULKNER, CPHRM,
AIC, AIC-M

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CLAIMS

More than an insurance policy

800.245.3333 | PRMS.com/Dedicated | TheProgram@prms.com

Insurance coverage provided by Fair American Insurance and Reinsurance Company (FAIRCO), New York, NY (NAIC 35157). FAIRCO is an authorized carrier in California, ID number 3715-7. www.fairco.com. PRMS, The Psychiatrists' Program and the PRMS Owl are registered Trademarks of Transatlantic Holdings, Inc., a parent company of FAIRCO.

