MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

MPS NEWS

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In This Issue

CPD Resource Page p. 2
ECP Organized Fellowship p. 2
Climate Corner p. 3
MPS Orioles Game p. 4
Member Accomplishments p. 5
September CME p. 6
Maryland News p. 7-9
New Maryland Laws p. 7
EQIP Enrollment p. 8
APA News p. 10
MHSC Registration p. 10
Medicare Updates p. 11
2025 Medicare Schedule p. 11
Wonodi Award Donations p. 12

In Every Issue

Membership p. 5
Classifieds p. 12

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 10 at 7:30 PM. All members welcome!

President's Column

Get Involved with MPS: Explore Our Diverse Interest Groups

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) offers numerous opportunities for members to engage with others who share their professional interests and passions. By participating in one or more of our specialized interest groups, members can collaborate, share knowledge, and advance their expertise in various areas of psychiatry.

Here's a brief overview of the interest groups available to members:

Addiction Psychiatry Interest Group: Focuses on the latest developments and challenges in addiction treatment and research. Also works to share resources and information regarding methods of support for individuals with substance use disorders.

Book Club: Provides a community interested in literature. Quarterly, the group meets to discuss influential texts and literature, both fiction and non-fiction, relevant to psychiatric practice.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Interest Group: Connects members interested in the psychiatric treatment of children and youth. Members share information regarding the issues and advancements in the treatment of younger populations.

Collaborative Care Model Interest Group: Explores the integration of psychiatric care and primary care. Members discuss their uses of the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM), challenges faced, and issues to address. This group also meets monthly via Zoom.

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Interest Group: Facilitates members connecting on the topic of Consultation-Liaison psychiatry, also known as psychosomatic medicine, and caring for patients with multiple psychiatric and general medical conditions.

Forensic Psychiatry Interest Group: Examines the intersection of psychiatry and the legal system. Group members are those interested in and/or involved with treating patients in the legal system.

Geriatric Psychiatry Interest Group: Focuses on the unique psychiatric needs of elderly patients and addresses the biological and psychological differences in patients of older age.

Health Policy Interest Group: Engages with policy development and advocacy efforts affecting mental health care. The group addresses the range of issues and opportunities in mental health care resulting from state government actions. It also helps assist MPS in addressing policies that are of interest to Maryland psychiatrists and their patients.

Neuromodulation Interest Group: Investigates innovative treatments relating to neurology. The group connects on the topic of Neuromodulation through neurofeedback and neurostimulation and discusses the use of ECT, EEG and Quantitative EEG, TMS, VNS, and other neuromodulation therapies and techniques.

Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis Interest Group: Discusses various topics such as Cognitive-Behavioral, Interpersonal, and Psychodynamic psychotherapy and psychoanalysis approaches and their applications.

get involved or learn more about what each group does, please visit the MPS website. Whether you're interested in a specific field or looking to broaden your professional network, there are plenty of opportunities to connect and contribute to the discussion.

Theodora Balis, M.D.
President

2024 MPS Member Survey

The annual MPS member check in on a variety of topics has been 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 was sent in late May 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.**

Diversity & Cultural Humility Resource Page

The Community Psychiatry & Diversity Coalition has recently updated its Resource Page which includes a list of local and national organizations, free courses, and general resources relating to diversity and cultural humility. It also includes resources on Social Determinants of Health as well as a list of children's books, articles, local businesses and more on the topic of The CBT of Racism. Check out the page to learn more!

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.

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 410-625-0232.

NEW ECP Organized MPS Fellowship

Early-Career Psychiatrists are encouraged to apply for a new one-year fellowship at the Maryland Psychiatric Society! The fellowship is designed to provide a unique opportunity to a current early career psychiatrist (ECP) member interested in leadership, outreach, and member engagement.

During this fellowship, the candidate will coordinate meetings and events tailored to ECPs and Resident Fellow Members (RFM), develop new ideas to promote MPS membership, help cultivate and identify ECP/RFM members interested in leadership, assist with ECP/RFM member retention, and gain insight from mentors and peers to develop new ideas that help promote MPS as the voice of psychiatry within the state of Maryland. Through mentorship and shadowing opportunities, this fellowship places an emphasis on the field of administrative psychiatry. The ECP Organized Fellowship will provide recipients with the foundation for success in future Maryland Psychiatric Society leadership positions and beyond.

The ECP Organized Fellowship is funded by the Maryland Psychiatric Society in the total amount of $20,000.00, broken into $5000.00 per year - one fellowship per year, for 4 years. (2024, 2025, 2026, 2027). Consideration for future funding will be evaluated in 2026.

The application window will begin on June 25th each year and close on August 15th and a candidate will be selected by September 1st to complete a 12-month term. Click here to learn more about program benefits, expectations, and application details. Please send complete application packet to mps@mdpsych.org by the specified deadline.

Membership & Recruitment Committee Volunteers Needed!

The Membership & Recruitment Committee is looking for volunteers! This committee recruits and evaluates applicants for membership, in accordance with MPS and APA policy. It also considers special member requests, works on recruitment, including outreach to area residency training programs, and carries out retention efforts.

We are looking for members who are excited to tackle projects focused on member engagement, retention, and recruitment! If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please email **jhritz@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.

Surgeon General's Social Media Warning

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy recently re-emphasized the dangers of social media on the mental health of adolescents. In 2023, he wrote an advisory on the impacts of social media and outlined further actions to protect the mental wellbeing of young users. In June, Dr. Murthy wrote an essay in the New York Times titled "Surgeon General: Why I'm Calling for a Warning Label on Social Media Platforms." He outlined the urgency of needing to add a warning to social media platforms, warning kids and parents about the harms of social media. He states that ultimately, the end goal is to make the social media platforms safer, but until then, young users and their parents need to know the risks that come with participating in social media.

AMA Calls for Investigation

In June, the AMA House of Delegates adopted policy calling for the investigation of the possibility of filing a class action lawsuit against Optum, UnitedHealth Group, and Change Healthcare to recoup damages for physician practices affected by the Change Healthcare cyberattack. The policy also calls for a review of whether Optum acquired physician practices in the aftermath of the breach, when practices were in very vulnerable financial positions. As AMA investigates these issues, it is asking that physicians are aware of any practices being acquired due to the impact of the cyberattack, that they reach out to the AMA at ama.advocacy@ama-assn.org .

Kids Online Health and Safety

The Biden-Harris Administration's Kids Online Health and Safety Task Force released a new report last month with recommendations and best practices for safer social media and online platform use for youth. The recommendations in the report, Online Health and Safety for Children and Youth: Best Practices for Families and Guidance for Industry, underscore the Administration's efforts to address the ongoing youth mental health crisis and support the President's Unity Agenda for the nation. Task Force members also committed to future actions, including providing more resources for kids, teenagers and families, guidance for pediatricians and conducting more research.

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.

CLIMATE CORNER

Let's continue the summer series on heat and mental health. This month's column explores the public mental health impact of rising heat.

Suicide: a 2023 meta-analysis found that a 1°C increase in ambient temperatures leads to a 1-2% increased incidence of suicide (specifically, an increase of 1.5% for average monthly temperature based on data from 3 studies, 1.7% for average daily temperature based on data from 5 studies).

Hospitalization: that same meta-analysis reported 9.7% higher incidence of hospital presentation or admission for mental illness relative to non-heat waves based on three studies.

Violence: An Australian study found that rates of domestic violence increased with daily ambient temperature, and tended to occur indoors. Other types of violence also increased with no change in indoor or outdoor location. Green spaces in urban areas, which we discussed in June as important cooling mechanisms for urban heat islands, are associated with decreased rates of violence.

As we round out the summer season, please remember that extreme heat events are a risk factor for worsened mental health outcomes. Human-caused climate change is a driver of extreme heat events. Be mindful of actions you can take as an individual to decrease your own reliance on fossil fuels (which is the main driver of climate change) and connect with your local representatives to voice your concerns about climate change. As a psychiatrist, you can counsel patients about heat-related risks (outlined in the June and July MPS New Climate Corner) and speak with your organization about improving its carbon footprint. If you would like to get even more involved, there are several relevant professional organizations: the APA's Caucus on Climate Change and Mental Health, the Climate Psychiatry Alliance, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health.

Elizabeth Ryznar MD MSc

PRMS Case of the Quarter

Q2 2024 Case of the Quarter: PRMS' has released its 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, on the topic of settling a lawsuit. Current and past cases can be found on our website here.

PRMS Blog: PRMS' latest blog is written by Rich Stagnato, RPLU, PRMS Senior Underwriter, on the topic of Claims-Made vs. Occurrence Insurance Policies. To learn more about the difference between the two policy types, please review the blog here.

Orioles™

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY'S

DAY AT THE BALLPARK!

SUNDAY AUGUST 25

@1:35 PM

ORIOLES PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS

Enjoy an afternoon of baseball and an all-inclusive food selection!

HOT DOGS • POPCORN • PEANUTS • FROZEN TREATS AND MORE!

CLICK HERE FOR FREE RFM AND ECP TICKETS!

ALL OTHER MEMBERS CLICK HERE FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS AT JUST $40!

Limited tickets available!

email JHritz@mdpsych.org with any questions

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

Michael Barry, M.D.
Meghan Chin, M.D.
Alexis Frezza, D.O.
Miriam Guzman, M.D., MHA
Michelle Leff, M.D.
Rebecca Marquard, M.D.
Shian Omar, M.D.
Christin Park, M.D.
Justin Qian, M.D.
Aliya Saffran, M.D.
Richard Wu, M.D.

Transfers

Melissa Lavoie, M.D.

Member Shoutouts

Haroon Burhanullah, M.D. received $200,000 in funding from the Johns Hopkins Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Aging Research to study the use of AI in the management of delirium. Delirious patients will wear an AI device which can track eye movement, send them messages, and orient them hourly. Dr. Burhanullah hypothesizes the device will reduce the duration of delirium in these patients. He will also determine the longer-term effect of decreased delirium on cognition.

Michael Bray, M.D., M.Sc. was granted Honorable Mention recognition for the 2024 National Institute of Mental Health Outstanding [Research] Resident Award for his six first-author papers. Congratulations Dr. Bray!

Denis Antoine, M.D. was selected to serve as the Hopkins Urban Health Institute's Associate Director for Partnerships. The Institute serves as a link between Hopkins and the Baltimore community and he will work to create collaboration between communities, universities, healthcare systems, government, and the private sector to achieve health equity in Baltimore.

Member Publications

Nicole Leistikow, M.D. and **Milena Smith, M.D., Ph. D.** co-authored a paper "The role of sleep protection in preventing and treating postpartum depression" which focuses on the importance of designating a time for patients at high risk of PPD to have uninterrupted sleep. It is targeted particularly at OB, perinatal providers, or others looking to give patients practical tips for protecting postpartum sleep.

Resident-Fellow Members' Post-Residency Plans

Brandon Birckhead, M.D. will be a VR/AR clinician at Apple Inc. and an Assistant Professor, Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA

Heba Elnaiem, M.D. will begin a Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Clio Franklin, M.D. will be continuing with training as a Geriatric Psychiatry fellow at Mass General Brigham in Boston, MA.

Cyrus R. Gilbert, M.D. will be an Alexander Schweizer Fellow in Mood Disorders at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Megan Hosein, M.D., MPH will be an Alexander Schweizer Fellow in Mood Disorders at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Alison McCanon, M.D. will be working at the Eating Recovery Center in Hunt Valley.

Michelle Miller, M.D. will be a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Sasha K. Narayan, M.D. will be a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Jessica Reddy, M.D., Ph.D. will be an Adult Outpatient Psychiatrist at Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group

Arman Terzian, M.D. will begin a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Jason Theis, M.D., MPH will be a Consult Liaison Psychiatry Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Members Out & About

David Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D. gave an interview on Iowa Public Radio's "River to River" show about cannabis, including its proposed rescheduling. You can listen to his interview here—his segment is in the second half hour.

Harsh K. Trivedi, M.D., MBA wrote a commentary in The Baltimore Sun responding to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's campaign to add a warning label to social media in the hopes that it can alert users to its mental health harms, especially in adolescents.

The Maryland Psychiatric Society Presents

MEET THE EXPERT: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. GLENN TREISMAN

Hosted By

Bruce Hershfield, M.D.

Special Guest

Glenn Treisman, M.D.

Monday, September 23rd

Discussion + Q&A from 7 PM until 9 PM

@ Sheppard Pratt Towson Campus

doors open at 6:30pm

$25 Ticketed Entry
Free for RFMs and ECPs

Light refreshments will be provided

REGISTER HERE

*2 CME CREDITS CAN BE CLAIMED

Maryland News

New Maryland Laws Effective July 1

The Maryland General Assembly passed more than 500 pieces of legislation in the 2024 Legislative Session, including several priority, statewide, and local bills impacting residents, businesses, and other organizations in Maryland. Below, please find summaries of legislation of interest to MPS members that took effect July 1, 2024.

SB221/HB146: Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification: This departmental bill authorizes any health occupations board (that does not otherwise have statutory authority to do so) to adopt regulations establishing reciprocity for individuals who are licensed or certified in another State that also offers similar reciprocity to individuals licensed or certified by the board. Applicants for reciprocity must meet specified standards.

SB212/HB1048: Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations: This departmental bill generally requires the Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to work in conjunction with one another, as specified, including by (1) coordinating with one another on their annual reports and (2) meeting jointly at least three times per year at mutually determined times and places. The bill also alters the membership and terms of the council, alters the membership of the commission, and requires the commission to make specified recommendations regarding the integration of somatic and behavioral health services in Medicaid.

SB453/HB576: Mental Health - Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs: This Administration bill requires that an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program be established in each county by July 1, 2026. A county may establish its own program and must notify the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) by January 1, 2025, as to whether the county intends to do so. In any county that does not opt to establish its own program, MDH must establish a program in the county. The bill generally sets standards and procedures for "assisted outpatient treatment" (AOT) programs, petitions, treatment plans, rights of respondents, hearings, criteria for orders, court orders, and order modifications. MDH must establish clinical and operational standards for AOT programs and care coordination teams. By December 1 each year, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) must submit a specified report on each AOT program.

SB165/HB204: Education – Coaches – Mental Health Training: This bill requires each public school in the State that offers an athletic program and each public institution of higher education that offers an athletic program to provide specified mental health training to each participating coach. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must work in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), each local board of education, and the Maryland Public. Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) to develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students (including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse). Likewise, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must work with MDH to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students.

SB791/HB932: Health Insurance - Utilization Review – Revisions: This bill, among other things, (1) requires carriers, by July 1, 2026, to establish and maintain an online process for prior authorizations that meets specified parameters; (2) alters current requirements for the prior authorization of specified prescription drugs; (3) requires carriers to comply with certain requirements when rendering adverse decisions; (4) alters timelines for certain adverse decisions; (5) alters and adds to the criteria and standards that must be used by private review agents; and (6) requires existing benchmarks for standardizing and automating preauthorization of health care services and payors' online preauthorization systems to include certain utilization criteria. The bill includes study and reporting requirements involving the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA). The bill also repeals obsolete provisions and makes conforming changes.

SB991: Behavioral Health - Language Assistance Services Pilot Program: This bill establishes the Language Assistance Services Pilot Program to (1) provide meaningful access to behavioral health care to children with limited English proficiency and (2) establish a competitive grant process for local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs) to provide reimbursement to behavioral health providers for language assistance services, as specified. The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) must implement specified requirements as part of administering the program. In fiscal 2025 and 2026, the Governor must include $120,000 in the annual budget bill for the program. BHA must award at least three grants of $30,000 in fiscal 2025 and 2026 and submit a specified report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 in 2025 through 2027.

Financial Symposium for Physicians

Baltimore City Medical Society presents Financial Independence: Your Rx for Success on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at the Inn at the Colonnade. The day-long symposium features physicians presenting on a range of topics, including negotiation, estate planning, debt management, and physician entrepreneurship. **Read More**

Maryland News

MedChi Reintroduces Insurance Page

In 2012, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, along with the Maryland Attorney General, launched Insurance Watch, a web portal for Maryland physicians to file insurance complaints and direct consumers on how to receive assistance from the Attorney General's Office when consumers are denied their full health benefits.

Through the Insurance Watch portal, a physician or patient can file a complaint with the Maryland Insurance Administration ("MIA") or request help from the Maryland Attorney General's Office in filing a complaint directly with their insurer. To access MedChi's Insurance Watch web portal visit: https://www.medchi.org/Insurance-Watch

Click here for more information.

EQIP Enrollment Now Open

The Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) enrollment for Performance Year 4 (CY2025) is now open**!** EQIP provides incentive payments to practitioners who improve the quality of care and reduce the cost of care that they provide to Maryland Medicare patients.

The enrollment opportunity will close Friday August 30, 2024. To learn more about EQIP or to find out if you are eligible to participate, please send an email.

Please see the following resources for more information:

- Understanding EQIP
- Enrollment Webinar

Maryland EQIP Additions

MedChi held a meeting in July regarding the Maryland Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) and changes that are being made for the 2025 year. Two new behavioral health episodes will be available for participation in 2025 under the behavioral health category: Chronic Anxiety and Recurrent Depression. EQIP will also be switching to the Patient Centered Episode System (PACES) as the episode grouper. Enrollment is open from July 15, 2024 through August 30, 2024. Performance Year 4 will run January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. More information on EQIP and the upcoming cycle can be found in this document or in BH EQIP Meeting New Bundle Opportunity recorded meeting. Questions can be directed to eqip@crisphealth.org.

MDH Releases Overdose Data Dashboard

In July the Maryland Department of Health released a new, enhanced Overdose Data Dashboard. The new dashboard will replace the previous version maintained by Maryland's Office of Overdose Response. It will be updated monthly and includes the new features, including:

- Unified Data: The dashboard combines data on fatal overdoses, non-fatal emergency department visits, and EMS naloxone administrations. Users can search this data by zip code.
- Timely Data Updates: The dashboard provides the most current data available, reducing the data release period from 90 to 30 days. This allows for more proactive monitoring and response.
- Historical Trend Analysis: The dashboard provides historical data at the jurisdictional level, enabling the analysis of community trends over time.
- Demographic Insights: The dashboard provides insights across age, race, and gender for targeted overdose responses across jurisdictions.

Like the previous version, the new dashboard also incorporates data on opioid-related emergency department visits as well as information from emergency medical services and their administration of the opioid overdose reversal medication, naloxone. The new dashboard also provides more recent overdose data than was previously available to help inform local-level programming. Visit https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx to learn more.

MDH Announces Partnership

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) announced its partnership with the Maryland Coalition of Families and Manatt Health to develop recommendations and a public-facing roadmap that offers a vision for change for the state's public behavioral health system. The partnership will establish the next steps to improve behavioral health for Maryland's children, youth, and families.

The Department, Maryland Coalition of Families and Manatt Health, from now until December 2024, will:

- Conduct a current state assessment.
- Develop an internal report and initial set of recommendations.
- Prepare a detailed roadmap with proposed policy changes and action steps to improve behavioral health care for children and youth.

Click here to read more.

Maryland News

Maryland Medicaid Expiration

Effective July 1st, the Health Services Cost Review Commission will decrease the public payer differential from 8.7% to 7.7%. As a result, the Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program will pay enrolled HSCRC regulated in-state hospitals at 92.3%.

Also effective July 1 the Substantial Available and Affordable Coverage discount for HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will decrease from 6.7% to 5.7%. This means MCOs will pay 94.3% of charges.

The new differential will apply to reimbursement of inpatient claims with dates of discharge on or after July 1, 2024 and outpatient claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise James, Division Chief for Hospital Services at (410)767-1939 or denise.james@maryland.gov.

Commission on Health Equity Applications

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is accepting applications for membership seats on the Maryland Commission on Health Equity (the "Commission"). This Commission will serve as the governance structure for Maryland's work under the CMS States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. More information about AHEAD can be found here.

The Commission will provide oversight and guidance to the Maryland Department of Health and The Health Services Cost Review Commission in the areas of racial, ethnic, cultural, or socioeconomic health disparities, including State and local collaboration and implementation of policies and laws dedicated to reducing health disparities, improving population health, and advancing health equity across the State. Additionally, the Commission will help to set goals for health equity and inform a statewide health equity plan. Interested individuals are invited to apply via the MDH appointments website.

Insurance of Temporary Moratoria

In early July the Maryland Department of Health imposed a temporary moratorium on newly enrolling Medicaid providers effective for the following Provider Types and services:

1. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRP)
2. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs, Health Home
3. Level 2.5 Partial Hospital Programs (PHP), and;
4. Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs (IOP)

Please click here for more information.

Upcoming MACS Virtual CMEs

The Maryland Addition Consultation Services has a number of upcoming virtual CME & CEU Events. See below for details.

- **Co-Occuring Disorder in Pregnancy:** MACS for MOMs Specialty Topic**:** Tuesday, August 27 from 12:00-1:00PM; Presented by Christopher Welsh, M.D. Register here.
- **Introduction to HHS Office of Civil Rights & Our Legal Authorities:** Thursday, August 29 from 12:00-1:00PM; Presented by guest speakers from the Office of Civil Rights. Register here.
- **Approaches to Treatment of OUD in the Pediatric Population:** Thursday, September 19 from 12:00-1:00PM; Presented by Marc Fishman, M.D. Register here.

Contact MACStraining@som.umaryland.edu with any questions.

$1 Billion Gift to Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg Philanthropies is gifting $1 billion to make medical school free at Johns Hopkins University for most students there. Starting this fall, the gift will cover full tuition for medical students from families earning less than $300,000. Living expenses and fees will be covered for students from families who earn up to $175,000. The gift will also increase financial aid for students at the university's schools of nursing, public health, and other graduate schools. Click here to read more.

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.

APA News & Information

APA Foundation Award Nominations Open

The APA Foundation's annual awards recognize individuals and organizations who are innovating efforts to increase access to mental health care and improve the lives of community members with mental health concerns:

- The Chester M. Pierce Human Rights Award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of individuals to promote the human rights of populations with mental health needs by bringing attention to their work.
- The O'Leary Award for Innovation in Psychiatry provides seed money to launch innovative ideas in the field of mental and behavioral health.

To nominate a colleague or peer organization for an award, please click here: apply.psychiatry.org/. The application deadline is August 15, 2024. If you have any questions, please email APA Foundation Awards (apafawards@psych.org).

APA Urges Senate to Expand GME

A bipartisan group of members of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Medicare Graduate Medical Education program, released a Medicare GME Working Group draft proposal outline (.pdf) focusing on several key policy issues. The proposal seeks to address physician workforce shortages, challenges faced by rural and other underserved communities to accessing care, barriers to rural physician training, improved data collection and transparency. The proposal notably looked to add an undetermined amount of new Medicare GME slots from FY 2027-2031 with at least 15% to psychiatry or psychiatry subspecialties. APA has provided the working group feedback and recommended that no fewer than 400 new slots be allocated to psychiatry annually. APA's full response may be viewed here.

APA Meets with Biden Administration

Last month APA staff met with staff from the White House Domestic Policy Council to discuss permanency of the COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities that are set to expire at the end of 2024. APA shared data and member feedback advocating to retain the option to treat patients via telemedicine technologies without a prior in-person visit and payment parity for telepsychiatry visits.

Nominations Invited for APA Board Positions

APA's continued success hinges on the knowledge and input of its members. Nominate yourself or a colleague for one of six open Board of Trustees positions in 2025 including president-elect, secretary, and minority/underrepresented (M/UR) trustee. The nomination deadline is September 1, 2024. Click here for more information.

AMA Physician Practice Information Survey

APA encourages members to complete the AMA Physician Practice Information Survey (PPIS). The data collected by the PPIS, which impacts physician payments, has not been updated in more than 15 years. Psychiatry needs more responses to accurately estimate psychiatry practice costs. If you want to check whether your practice should have received the survey or have other inquiries, please email Christy Buranaamorn.

Secure Your Early Registration for MHSC

This year, APA's Mental Health Services Conference is returning to its roots as a collaborative meeting in which the entire mental health care team can share their experiences and engage in discussions with colleagues. The meeting will be held **September 26–28** at the **Hilton Baltimore** Inner Harbor hotel. Register now at the meeting's lowest rates.

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.**

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.

Medicare Updates

2025 Medicare Physician Schedule

Last month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2025 Medicare Physician Payment Schedule proposed rule. The 2025 Medicare conversion factor is proposed to decrease from $33.2875 to $32.3562. This is the fifth consecutive year of CMS estimating Medicare payment reductions—this time by 2.8 percent.

In addition, CMS would maintain the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) threshold to avoid a MIPS penalty at 75 points for the 2025 performance year. CMS proposes changes to telehealth policies, creation of G-codes and payment for new services spanning behavioral health to cardiovascular risk management, expansion of the transfer of care modifiers for all 90-day global surgical codes and payment for preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection prevention at no cost -sharing. The AMA has prepared a summary (PDF) of the rule, along with an analysis (PDF) of CMS' impact assumptions for proposed G-codes, the advanced primary care management services, and the proposed 90-day global surgical transfer of care policy.

Facing this widening gap between what Medicare pays physicians and the cost of delivering quality care to patients, the AMA is urging physicians to contact their Congressional representatives and encourage them to pass a reform package that would permanently strengthen Medicare.

New Process for Laboratory Codes

Effective August 18th, when records are not submitted to support the code billed the service will reject. The claim must then be resubmitted with the appropriate information. The following documentation must be submitted with the ***initial*** claim submission for the lab codes linked above:

- Orders and test results for the test performed
- History and physical examination
- Progress or office notes for the test performed
- Any additional documentation supporting the need for the service

Bill Correctly for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Services

In a report, the Office of the Inspector General found that Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) providers didn't always comply with federal requirements when they bill for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services, including intake activities. Review OTP Billing & Payment, and learn how to:

- Bill for OUD services
- Use the correct G-codes for treatment

Updated Codes Files Now Available

An updated Remittance Advice Remark Code (RARC) and Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) "Codes.ini" file is now available for you to import into the current 4.6 version of MREP. A new version of the software is not being released at this time.

Follow the steps below to import the updated codes:

- Go to the CMS Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) web page
- Open the "Medicare Remit Easy Print-Version 4.6 (ZIP)" file
- Extract or open the "Codes.ini file and save it to a file location of your choosing
- Follow the How to Update (Import) the CARC/RARC codes instructions in the MREP User Guide

CMS Launches Dementia Experience Model

On July 1st CMS launched the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model with 390 participating organizations building Dementia Care Programs that will serve hundreds of thousands of people with Medicare nationwide. The GUIDE Model aims to increase access to much-needed support for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

CMS Coverage of Kisunla for Alzheimer's Disease

CMS announced Medicare coverage is now available for Eli Lilly's Kisunla (donanemab-azbt) following the Food and Drug Administration's move to grant traditional approval to the drug that treats individuals with Alzheimer's disease. CMS posted updated fact sheets for providers and consumers about the CMS National Patient Registry for New Alzheimer's Drugs. Additional information on Kisunla's approval can be found here.

2023 Open Payments Data

CMS published Program Year 2023 Open Payments data to the public website as part of its ongoing commitment to improving transparency in health care. The data includes Program Year 2023 data submitted and attested to by applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations that are required to annually report payments made to certain health care providers, including physicians and teaching hospitals.

Classifieds

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- **Cumberland**

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For more information, please contact:
Emily Patrick, Director of Provider Recruitment, **epatrick@sheppardpratt.org**.

About Sheppard Pratt

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