



*Updates on the AMA's work in our nation's capital, states and courthouses*

**Nov. 3, 2023**

## Medicare Physician Payment

### **AMA to MedPAC: Physician pay must track inflation**

In a recent letter, the AMA strongly urged the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) to recommend that Congress update Medicare physician payment by 100% of the Medicare Economic Index. According to an AMA analysis, inadequate payment is the most cited reason that independent physicians sell their practices to hospitals.

[Read more.](#)

### **Physician organizations support draft budget neutrality legislation from Doctors Caucus leadership**

The AMA – alongside 121 national medical specialty societies and state medical associations – sent a letter to GOP Doctors Caucus co-chairs, Representatives Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Greg Murphy (R-NC), and Michael Burgess (R-TX), thanking them for their leadership in introducing draft legislation to reform budget neutrality policies applied to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

[Read more.](#)

## **Physicians call for pausing MIPS Cost Category due to serious problems with measures**

The AMA is strongly urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reweight the 2022 Cost Performance Category to 0% of Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) final scores to nullify the negative impact of the problematic measures on 2024 Medicare physician payment, on top of an across-the-board reduction to the conversion factor.

[Read more.](#)

## **AMA joins coalition in calling for more MIPS support for small and rural practices**

The SURS Extension Act would renew an important technical assistance program known as the Quality Payment Program Small, Underserved, and Rural Support (QPP-SURS) program, which provided support to practices that participate in Medicare value-based payment incentive programs.

[Read more.](#)

## **CMS to begin 2022 MIPS data validation audits**

From now until March 2024, CMS – through its contractor Guidehouse – will conduct validation and audits of 2023 MIPS data for eligible clinicians and groups. Practices will have 45 days from the date of the notice to provide the requested information of substantive, primary source documents.

[Read more.](#)

## **New AMA resources for Medicare Making Care Primary Model; Applications due Nov. 30**

The new resources include an on-demand recording of a recent webinar in which the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) staff highlighted key details of the model and fielded questions from physicians, slides, and a frequently asked questions document.

[Read more.](#)

## National Update

### [Register now: 2024 AMA National Advocacy Conference](#)

The AMA National Advocacy Conference – Feb. 12-14 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. – brings the power of organized medicine to our nation’s capital.

[Read more.](#)

### [AMA sounds alarm over sudden Provider Relief Funding claw-backs through Medicare claims payments](#)

Practices are being informed that they will have any amounts owed, along with 11.5% annual interest and additional penalties, automatically recouped through reductions to their Medicare claims payments.

[Read more.](#)

### [President Biden signs sweeping executive order on artificial intelligence](#)

The executive order takes a much stronger stance on new policy creation to ensure artificial intelligence (AI) quality and safety than previous releases by the White House. The AMA will continue policy development in the AI space to ensure the transparent, ethical, responsible and equitable deployment of AI in health care and will be closely watching the Administration’s actions in response to the executive order.

[Read more.](#)

### [Information blocking provider penalty proposed regulation released](#)

This new regulation focuses on health care providers, specifically physicians, hospitals, and Accountable Care Organizations. The AMA continues to advocate that the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) information blocking regulations are overly complex and federal education and compliance guidelines are insufficient.

[Read more.](#)

## [Combination of fentanyl and xylazine presents an emerging threat](#)

In a recent AMA Update episode, Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, discussed the decision by the White House to designate this combination of fentanyl and xylazine as an emerging threat to the U.S.

[Read more.](#)

## Judicial Update

### [\*\*Physicians must be free to report suspicious behavior without fear\*\*](#)

For the sake of patient safety and public trust, physicians must be able to report suspicions of incompetent or unethical conduct of health care professionals without fear of being sued for defamation, physicians tell a Kentucky court.

[Read more.](#)

### [\*\*Don't create loophole on medical liability statute of limitations\*\*](#)

The Missouri Supreme Court is set to determine whether patients will, in effect, have an indefinite amount of time to file medical liability claims against their physicians.

[Read more.](#)

## Other News

### [\*\*AMA Debunking Regulatory Myths series\*\*](#)

The Myth: The number of vital signs recorded during an outpatient visit impacts the level of service which may be billed. True or false?

[Read more.](#)

## Upcoming Advocacy Events

## Webinar today: What's next with Medicare payment reform

**Nov. 3:** Register for this AMA Advocacy Insights webinar – today at 1:00 p.m. Central time – to hear about:

- Where Medicare payment reform stands now
- How the AMA, alongside state and national medical specialty societies, is pushing for permanent payment reform
- How you can get involved in these advocacy efforts

A recording will be posted after the live event.

## AMA State Advocacy Summit

**Jan. 11-13, 2024:** Registration is open for the AMA State Advocacy Summit – Jan. 11-13, 2024, at the Ritz-Carlton in Amelia Island, Florida. More than 250 physician leaders and medical society staff attend the annual AMA State Advocacy Summit. Attendees have the opportunity to:

- Hear from national experts on the critical issues impacting medicine at the state level
- Strategize with advocacy leaders on their organizations' state legislative and regulatory priorities
- Network with other physician leaders and colleagues from across the country

## AMA National Advocacy Conference

**Feb. 12-14, 2024:** The AMA National Advocacy Conference – Feb. 12-14, 2024, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. – brings the power of organized medicine to our nation's capital. Don't miss your chance to:

- Connect with industry experts, members of Congress and the Administration, and others about federal efforts to improve health care
- Advocate on crucial health care issues affecting physicians and patients

## Other Upcoming Events

### Sepsis Core Elements: CDC webinar series

**Oct. 10-Dec. 7:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the [Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements](#) to help health care facilities implement, monitor and optimize their sepsis programs and outcomes. Join the AMA and CDC's Project Firstline for a 5-part webinar series to learn about the new Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements and hear from CDC partners as they share real-life examples, strategies and best practices about how they have successfully incorporated one or more of the Sepsis Core Elements at their institution. The recordings for the first three webinars in the series are available now, and the next will take place at Noon Central time on Nov. 16.

### National Lung Cancer Screening Day

**Nov. 11:** Save lives from lung cancer. Support National Lung Cancer Screening Day through outreach, discussion, referral and screening. Focusing on communities most impacted improves cancer care and outcomes for everyone.

### AMA prediabetes quality measures

**Nov. 14:** On World Diabetes Day, join AMA chronic disease prevention team members Kate Kirley, MD, MS, and Jennie Folk, MHA, for this webinar at 11:00 a.m. Central time on how electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) play a pivotal role in assessing and incentivizing top-tier diabetes preventive care.