

Progress Notes

MAY 2020

MSMA Reporting the Progress of Missouri's Medicine

www.msma.org

MSMA Delivers "DocPlates" to Frontline Healthcare Workers



In appreciation of Missouri physicians and healthcare workers, MSMA is calling in food for those providing care during the COVID-19 crisis.

MSMA launched DocPlates on April 27 in Jefferson City, providing lunch to Dr. Randall Haight's COVID-19 team at Capital Region Medical Center (CRMC).

If you know of a COVID-19 team who deserves to be treated, email Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org. Tell us why they are your heroes.

Left: MSMA Council Chair George Hubbell, MD, delivers lunch to Amy Hamacher at Capital Region Medical Center.

DHSS and MSMA Partner for COVID-19 Conference Calls

MSMA is coordinating a series of COVID-19 conference calls between MSMA physicians and Randall Williams, MD, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. They have been held regularly during March, April, and May on Saturday mornings. Visit msma.org/covid19-conf-calls for date, time, and call-in number. Email questions in advance to MSMA at jhowell@msma.org.

MO Telehealth Network, Show-Me ECHO & DHSS Host COVID-19 ECHO

The Missouri Telehealth Network and Show-Me ECHO have partnered with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to host an ongoing COVID-19 ECHO to provide up-to-date information and support for health care stakeholders across Missouri. A multidisciplinary expert team led by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams, MD, will share the latest developments, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants. The COVID-19 ECHO meets via Zoom videoconferencing every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Visit showmeecho.org/clinics/covid-19 for more information.

PPE Decontamination

Battelle CCDS (Critical Care Decontamination System) is available at zero cost to healthcare providers. Visit www.battelle.org/decon to learn more about enrollment.

MSMA Urges Best Practices During Reopening

MSMA, along with 15 other statewide health and business organizations, have joined together and issued a statement to urge Missourians to continue prevention and maintain best practices during the reopening of the state.

It is important that all Missourians seek medical care if they are having an emergency, and to receive ongoing treatment for chronic medical conditions. The challenge continues to be real and immediate until the general population has immunity and a vaccine is developed and fully deployed.

The phased-in resumption of the economy is only successful if everyone in the state continues to follow the proven and well-documented community-based interventions and prevention practices such as social distancing, hand washing, staying at home when ill, covering coughs and sneezes, and wearing a face mask when out in public places.

See link below for full statement and other COVID-19 resources and updates.



msma.org/coronavirus-2019-covid-19



AMA Develops Checklist to Safely Reopen Your Physician Practice

States are revising their COVID-19 executive orders and allowing medical practices to offer elective and non-urgent procedures and services. A new AMA checklist provides helpful step-by-step guidance to manage the safe reopening of practices in a manner that protects patients, clinicians, staff and the public.

The AMA checklist builds upon guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and offers tips on getting started, mistakes to avoid, and tools for practice reopening—including a script for a pre-visit screening.

Here are the steps the AMA suggests taking before reopening a medical practice.

Comply with governmental guidance. The AMA has developed a chart detailing state-by-state actions regarding the resumption of non-urgent medical services and elective procedures. Physicians should consult the chart to see what is allowed in their area.

Make a plan. Create a timetable charting what needs to be done prior to reopening and order enough medical supplies and personal protective equipment so that sporadic deliveries do not disrupt services. Develop procedures for what to do if a clinician, employee, patient, or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19 after visiting the practice and how long employees who interacted with a diagnosed patient should stay home from work.

Open incrementally. Prepare for a soft opening and identify which services can be delivered via telehealth and continue to conduct those visits remotely. Begin with a few in-person visits a day and consider bringing staff back in phases. Administrative staff whose work can be done remotely should continue to work from home.

Find full checklist at www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-physician-practice-guide-reopening.

Building Telemedicine into Your Practice

The AMA Digital Health Implementation Playbook series offers comprehensive step-by-step guides to implementing digital health solutions, specifically telemedicine, in practice based on insights from across the medical community. Each Playbook offers key steps, best practices and resources to support an efficient and clear path to implementation and scale.

The newest Playbook in the series focuses on the implementation of telehealth, defined as real-time, audio-visual visits between a clinician and patient. There is also a quick guide for key implementation tips and the latest updates on telemedicine expansion amid COVID-19. Visit www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/ama-quick-guide-telemedicine-practice.

Need Help Paying for Telehealth? \$200 Million FCC Fund Could Help

If you are looking for financial assistance in providing telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, a newly created \$200 million government program may be able to help defray the costs of continuing to provide care to patients remotely.

The COVID-19 Telehealth Program is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is taking applications for assistance now.

The program provides those eligible with support to purchase telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to enable the provision of telemedicine services during this emergency period. It will provide selected applicants with full funding for these eligible telehealth services and devices.

To receive funding, eligible healthcare providers must submit an application to the Commission for this program, and the Commission will award funds to selected applicants on a rolling basis until the funds are exhausted or until the current pandemic has ended.

It should be noted that only select “healthcare providers” are eligible for funding. In this context, the applicable statute defines a health care provider to mean:

- Post-secondary educational institutions offering health care instruction, teaching hospitals and medical schools
- Community health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants
- Local health departments or agencies
- Community mental health centers
- Not-for-profit hospitals
- Rural health clinics
- Skilled nursing facilities

Those approved for funding will need to submit an invoicing form and supporting documentation to receive reimbursement for eligible expenses and services.

Visit www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program.

Proposed Legislation to Forgive Student Loans

Proposed federal legislation aims to offer private and public loan forgiveness for front-line workers delivering care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, including physicians, nurses, medical researchers and laboratory professionals.

The Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act was introduced this week. The legislation, supported by the AMA, would establish a federal and private loan-forgiveness program for loans acquired to receive medical and professional training held by healthcare workers who have made significant contributions to COVID-19 patient care, medical research, or testing. The CARES Act led to the suspension of payments and interest accrual on most federal student loans for roughly six months through Sept. 30, 2020. The legislation introduced would extend to private loans and provide forgiveness rather than deferral of payments.




MSMA's Alliance Installs 2020-2021 Officers via Zoom

MSMA congratulates the 2020-2021 Alliance officers installed via Zoom on Friday, May 8.

Leading the physician spouse group is Diana Corzine, President; Barbara Hover, President-elect; Kelly O'Leary, Vice President-Foundation; Angela Zylka, Vice President-Health; Kirk Doan, Vice President-Legislation; Jennifer Gast, Vice President-Membership; Mary Catherine Heimbürger, Recording Secretary; and Debora Snyder, Treasurer.

Sue Ann Greco, St. Louis, MSMA Alliance Past President, will be installed as the AMA Alliance President on June 6, also via Zoom. She will be the sixth AMA Alliance President from Missouri, starting with Mrs. George Hoxie, of Jackson County, in 1924-25. Sue Ann is the spouse of Thomas Greco, MD, Internal Medicine, MSMA member.





The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services offers a "COVID-19 Analytics Update" for syndromic surveillance, healthcare system capacity (bed, PPE, and staff availability), testing, COVID-19 cases and deaths, economic and social impact, insights from U.S. states, nationally, and other countries, evidence from scientific literature, and mathematical disease modelling.

Visit health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/analytics-update.pdf.

MHD COVID-19 FAQ

MO HealthNet Division (MHD) has created a FAQ for COVID-19 questions on telehealth billing, hospital facility fees, and out of state physicians providing care to Missouri patients. To view the FAQ, visit dss.mo.gov/covid-19/pdf/covid-19-faqs.pdf.

New to Medicare: Appeals and Overpayments Teleconference

WPS Government Health Administrators is holding a webinar on June 11 from 10-11 a.m. The teleconference focuses on appeals and overpayments. The agenda includes defining appeals, completing an appeal, defining overpayments and completing an overpayment. To sign up for this teleconference you must log in to the WPS Learning Center at wpsghlearningcenter.com/store-catalog.

Demystifying Hospice and Physician Billing Webinar

Hospice Home and Health and Medicare Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors are holding a webinar on June 24 from noon – 2 p.m. about coverage for services related to hospice diagnosis. In order to correctly bill Medicare for physician services, it's important to understand the basics of the Medicare hospice benefit and how billing may be affected. For more information and to register go to <https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=reg20.jsp&referrer=&eventid=2319100&sessionid=1&key=A71D32F7D0CA028E9FBE7D38274BAAE8®Tag=&sourcepage=register>.

Insurance Partnership Creates Savings for MSMA Members

We are excited that MSMA is partnering with Mylo (My Lockton) to provide MSMA members with a digital one-stop shop for home and auto insurance that may be able to save you time and money. Mylo is part of Kansas City-based Lockton Companies, launched in 1966 and now the world's largest independent insurance broker.

Mylo offers:

- An exclusive MSMA group discount
- Convenient shopping from multiple top-rated carriers
- A customized recommendation for your home or vehicle

Visit choosemylo.com/MSMA or call 844-208-4544. Watch your inbox for email savings coming this month.





Missouri State Medical Association

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Coverage for Affluent Homes

Experience the peace of mind that comes from working with an insurance professional who understands your unique needs.

MSMA Insurance cares for physicians and covers their personal and professional needs.

Contact Ronnie Staggs | 866-676-2467 | www.msma.biz | rstaggs@msma.biz



SHOW-ME HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK OF MISSOURI

In partnership with Missouri State Medical Association

Use SHINE at No Cost to Help Battle COVID-19

In an effort to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic, SHINE of Missouri, a partner of MSMA, will offer free view-only access to physicians until October 31, 2020.

SHINE is a product of KONZA which is a nationwide health information exchange (HIE) that connects over 10,000 health care organizations.

The state of Missouri has funding available to help eligible physicians with on-boarding expenses to become full members of SHINE. MO HealthNet will be providing funding through the 90/10 program to eligible professionals, and the Physician's Foundation has made funding available to independent providers that wish to join SHINE.

For more information on how to join SHINE to request an Emergency Participation Agreement, go to www.SHINEofMissouri.com. If you would like to become a full member of SHINE, please contact Russ Calicutt (RCalicutt@konza.org) as you may be eligible for additional funding.

