MSMA Celebrates Women In Medicine Month

MSMA celebrated Women In Medicine Month (September), and the MSMA Women Physicians Section (WPS) has launched a social media campaign celebrating the achievements of MSMA’s female members. The women physicians featured on the WPS Twitter and Facebook pages are recognized for their scholarly articles, recent promotions, leadership positions, and many other professional accomplishments.

- View and post at #WomenForWomenMO and #WomenInMedicineMonth (ongoing!).
- Follow the WPS on Twitter: twitter.com/wpsmsma and Facebook: facebook.com/WPSmsma
- Women in Medicine webinars and other online resources are at msma.org/women-physicians-section.
- Learn about the WPS by contacting Heidi Sutherland at heidi@msma.org.

Encourage Flu Shots to Your Patients this Fall

In a typical year, more than 100,000 Missourians of all ages contract influenza which can take hundreds of lives. Because of COVID-19, encourage your patients, family, and friends to get their flu shot.

To ensure our state has the capacity to manage COVID-19 patients, we need to prevent strain on our doctors’ offices and hospitals and make fewer unnecessary medical visits and hospitalizations. It’s still unknown how a person could be affected by experiencing both viruses at the same time as symptoms of flu and COVID-19 significantly overlap one another.

Flu shots are already available! Visit health.mo.gov/flu.
Virtual Advocacy Meetings

Ongoing - Contact MSMA

COVID restrictions forced us to get creative with our in-person MSMA legislative updates this year. In order to keep our members informed and up-to-date about what came out of the 2020 legislative session, the MSMA advocacy team hosted a series of Virtual Advocacy Meeting (VAM) updates throughout August and September for each of MSMA’s districts around the state.

Physicians who took part in the Zoom calls learned how legislation from the 2020 legislative session affects your practices and patients, got a look ahead at the 2021 legislative session, heard a special session update, and participated in live Q&A. Thank you to everyone who participated in these calls! We had a great time catching up with you and hearing your questions and suggestions.

Just because our district-specific VAM series is finished doesn’t mean VAMs are over. If you would like to schedule a legislative update for your own group of physicians, we’d love to schedule a Zoom call with you. For more information and to schedule a VAM for your group, contact Shantel Dooling at shantel@msma.org or 573-691-4513.

Missouri COVID-19 Dashboard

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has developed a Missouri COVID-19 Dashboard which tracks the spread of the disease in the state. The Dashboard displays total lab confirmed cases, number of new cases, positivity rate, deaths, and hospitalizations. It also tracks demographics, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity, cases by county, testing-PCR, testing-serology, and deaths.


Weekly MSMA/DHSS Calls Continue

MSMA member Randall Williams, MD, Director of the DHSS, is continuing his conference call updates to MSMA members on the status of COVID-19. Join us every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Physicians, residents, and medical students can dial 888-330-9939, and enter 767288# when prompted.


State Opioid Response
MAT Waiver Training Is Virtual

Saturday, November 7, 2020
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Register 4-Hour Zoom/4-Hour Online: www.cvent.com/d/chqswn
Register 8-Hour Online: learning.pcssnow.org/p/onlinematwaiver

As a result of Missouri’s state opioid response grant, the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare is providing an 8-hour MAT Waiver Course with the first four hours live via Zoom and the last four hours individual online work. Another option is the 8-hour online course. There are different links depending on which 8-hour course you are taking. Complete the first four-hour live training and receive an email from AAAP with a link for the other four hours of individual work. Upon completing the required courses (MD-8 hours; NP/PA-24 hours), participants must submit a Notice of Intent form along with their certificate(s) of completion. A link to the form will be emailed following the training.

PCSS-MAT has a comprehensive library of materials at no cost for healthcare providers to build confidence in preventing substance use disorders and treating SUDs and opioid use disorders (OUD). PCSS-MAT also has a no-cost clinical coaching/mentoring program to provide one-on-one clinical expertise for primary care providers. You can post a question to a listserv with an addiction specialist and be matched with an addiction specialist.
CPT code changes
The first major overhaul of CPT codes in 25 years was proposed for adoption by CMS on January 1, 2021. The modifications were designed to make E/M office visit coding simpler and more flexible. Physicians and their practices will need to understand and be ready to use the revised CPT codes and guidelines by January 1.

The AMA has developed a resource library that includes checklists, videos, guidebooks and more. You can find those resources online at www.ama-assn.org.

CHART Funding Opportunity Available
CMS has released a notice of funding opportunity for the community transformation track of the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) model. This is a voluntary payment model designed to meet the unique needs of rural health care providers’ capacity to implement effective health care delivery system redesign on a broad scale. This is a community project, and will require an organization such as county governments, state governments, private institutions of higher education, to be the applicant, however, hospitals will be a significant partner in this program.

To find out more go to www.grantsolutions.gov.

COVID Testing in Nursing Homes
CMS recently implemented regulatory changes that require nursing homes to test staff and offer testing to residents for COVID-19. Laboratories and nursing homes using point-of-care testing devices will be required to report diagnostic test results as required by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The new rules also require hospitals to provide COVID-19 cases and related data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information on this issue, and to see other COVID-19 related requirements implemented on the same day, go to www.cms.gov.

Noncoverage ABN
Due to COVID-19, CMS has extended the deadline for using the revised Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) until January 1, 2021. You may use the revised form prior to the mandatory deadline. The ABN is issued by physicians to original Medicare (fee for service) beneficiaries in situations where Medicare payment is expected to be denied. The ABN is issued in order to transfer potential financial liability to the Medicare beneficiary in certain instances. Guidelines for issuing the ABN can be found on cms.gov/Medicare.

Medicare Overpayment Tool
WPS GHA has changed their overpayment balance tool section of the website on wpsgha.com. The new feature in the demand letter self-service tool shows real-time overpayment information for each demand letter. This feature displays the current balance split by principal and interest amounts. This tool should be used to verify remaining balances prior to sending a refund.

Prior Authorization for Hospital Outpatient Department Services
Tips and Reminders
Medicare contractor WPS GHA continues to find errors and omissions on prior authorization requests. These errors and omissions may result in processing delays.

Physicians should note the following on the Prior Authorization Request Form. To be valid the prior authorization request must:
• Include the facility PTAN and NPI
• Include the correct Medicare Beneficiary Identifier
• Include medical documentation for review
• Include an applicable CPT or HCPCS code
• Be legible
• To prevent processing delays due to rejections, providers should use the WPS Prior Authorization Request Form

Security Risk Assessment Tool
HIPAA requires covered entities to conduct a risk assessment to ensure compliance with HIPAA’s administrative, physical, and technical safeguards. A security risk assessment also helps reveal areas where protected health information could be at risk.

To learn more about the assessment process and updates go to the “News & Updates” section of www.HealthIT.gov.

2021 WHITE COAT DAY
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
Progress Notes
www.msma.org

Published monthly for the physician members of the Missouri State Medical Association

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protect what matters most

Serving Up a Slice of Unity During a Time of Distancing

MSMA delivers food to COVID-19 healthcare workers through a campaign called DocPlates on a request basis.

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