

Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities over the last few weeks. As always, please feel free to forward this update to others. My previous updates can be found at [www.mag.org/executivedirector](http://www.mag.org/executivedirector).

### **MAG Foundation**

The MAG Foundation flagship program – the Georgia Physician Leadership Academy – is accepting nominations for the next class. If you are interested in learning advocacy skills, conflict resolution and media training, this is a great opportunity. For more information, please contact Lori Murphy at [lmurphy@mag.org](mailto:lmurphy@mag.org) or [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Affiliates/MAG\\_Foundation/Georgia\\_Physicians\\_Leadership\\_Academy/Public/Affiliates/MAG\\_Foundation/Georgia\\_Physicians\\_Leadership\\_Academy.aspx?hkey=4a0f6344-226f-4533-89e1-b8567ba1788e](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Affiliates/MAG_Foundation/Georgia_Physicians_Leadership_Academy/Public/Affiliates/MAG_Foundation/Georgia_Physicians_Leadership_Academy.aspx?hkey=4a0f6344-226f-4533-89e1-b8567ba1788e).

### **HealthParadigm**

Please see important information for your practice from HeP:

- **Physician Foundation Grant** - until April 1, 2019, money provided by the Physician Foundation will cover all interface fees and MAG members will receive an early adopter price when joining the HealthParadigm Health Information Exchange.
- **Quality Reporting** - physicians participating HeP can meet their quality reporting requirements for their Medicaid/Medicare patients. MAG's physician led HIE meets the MACRA Health Information Exchange objectives & measures in 2019 as well.
- **MIPS exemption for South West Georgia Physicians**- if you are located in one of the south west Georgia counties illustrated in this map [here](#), you will automatically receive a neutral MIPS payment adjustment for 2019. For more information please contact HeP Director, Ryan Larosa, at [rlarosa@mag.org](mailto:rlarosa@mag.org) or 678.303.9290.

### **MAG Board of Directors**

On Saturday, the MAG Board of Directors met and approved the following actions:

- The BOD passed the following motions that were related to a 2018 House of Delegates Resolution (311C) on MAG's position on medical marijuana...
  - *RESOLVED, that MAG support the removal of any and all barriers to further research of cannabinoids.*
  - *RESOLVED, that MAG support any actions that will lead to the production of safe and quality-controlled cannabinoid extracts within the scope of current Georgia law that can be produced within Georgia for patients who are on the state "medical marijuana registry".*
- The BOD passed recommendations to establish MAG policy on "responding to potentially inappropriate medical treatment" (Resolution 110A) that were based on American Thoracic Society policy, including, but not limited to...
  - Institutions should implement strategies to prevent intractable treatment conflicts, including proactive communication and early involvement of expert consultation.
  - The term "potentially inappropriate" rather than "futile" should be used to describe treatments that have at least some chance of accomplishing the effect sought by the

patient, but clinicians believe that competing ethical considerations justify not providing them. Clinicians should communicate and advocate for the treatment plan they believe is appropriate. Requests for potentially inappropriate treatment that remain intractable despite intensive communication and negotiation should be managed by a fair process of dispute resolution.

- The medical profession should lead public engagement efforts and advocate for policies and legislation about when life-prolonging technologies should not be used.
- The BOD adopted a combined resolution (Resolution 307C.18 and 308C.18) that calls for MAG to...
  - Form a diverse “physician wellness initiative committee” to research the root causes of physician burnout, to recommend initiatives to educate physicians regarding the signs and symptoms of physician burnout, and to recommend tools and resources to facilitate the timely treatment for physicians who are suffering from physician burnout.
  - Educate legislators about physician burnout, and propose regulatory or legislative solutions to obtain additional funding for the Georgia Professionals Health Program (PHP).
  - Request that the Georgia Composite Medical Board consider the role of physician burnout in evaluating physicians it is investigating for alleged violations of the Medical Practice Act.
  - Promote resources to combat physician burnout, including – but not limited to – the dissemination of contact information for the Georgia PHP through MAG’s website and social media platforms.
- The BOD elected Joy A. Maxey, M.D., to represent MAG on The Physician Foundation’s Board of Directors for a two year term. MAG BOD Chairman Fred Flandry, M.D., then thanked and applauded MAG’s former Physicians Foundation Board members – Walker Ray, M.D., and Alan Plummer, M.D. – for their significant contributions to MAG and the medical profession in Georgia.
- Ryan Larosa gave an update on HealtheParadigm. Contact Larosa at [rlarosa@mag.org](mailto:rlarosa@mag.org) or 678.303.3732 or go to [www.healtheparadigm.com](http://www.healtheparadigm.com) to find out how your practice can take advantage HealtheParadigm.
- ACG Wealth Retirement Plan Specialist Kevin Rainwater reported that the MAG MEP 401(k) Plan now has nearly \$80 million in assets. Contact Rainwater at [krainwater@acgwealth.com](mailto:krainwater@acgwealth.com) or 404.991.7060 for information on the MAG plan.
- Frank McDonald, M.D., M.B.A., gave a special presentation on medical economics as part of a MAG Foundation Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy initiative. The video will be available in the *e-News from MAG*.
- The BOD approved MAG’s strategic plan of work for 2019 that was presented by MAG President Rutledge Forney, M.D.

### **Georgia General Assembly**

The Georgia General Assembly began two weeks ago. At this point, you should have received our *e-News from the Capitol* on the latest happenings at the Capitol. Of particular importance, physicians have received leadership positions in their respective chambers:

- Senator Ben Watson – Chair of the Health and Human Services committee and ex-officio member of the Insurance and Labor committee.
- Senator Dean Burke – Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services committee and member of Rules and Appropriations.
- Senator Kay Kirkpatrick – Chair of the Ethics Committee and member of the Insurance and Labor and Health and Human Services committees.
- Representative Mark Newton – Majority Caucus Chief Deputy Whip and Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services committee.

The General Assembly is expected to pick up the pace after the Super Bowl. Please be ready to respond to action alerts as there will be many health care issues to address this coming session. MAG's legislative priorities can be found at

[https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Advocacy/Government\\_Relations/Public/Advocacy/Government\\_Relations.aspx?hkey=dbdc89c2-e195-4e28-9449-722ca66f3fb5](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Advocacy/Government_Relations/Public/Advocacy/Government_Relations.aspx?hkey=dbdc89c2-e195-4e28-9449-722ca66f3fb5).

### **Maintenance of Certification**

Thank you all for responding to the American Board of Medical Specialties Vision Initiative Draft Report. Your comments were well received and the report is in final stages. The report is expected to be sent to the ABMS Board of Directors in February for review and action on the recommendations. I will send out the final report to you when it is ready. Thank you again for all of your support.

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

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