

Dear all:

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

**You should have already received our e-Newsletter outlining another great year at the General Assembly. Please take a moment to review and let me know if you have any questions.**

### **American Board of Medical Specialties**

ABMS is interested in speaking to physicians regarding their experience with COVID-19. If you have an interest, please email me directly and I can get you in touch with ABMS. I have included information from the email they sent me yesterday:

*Thank you so much for your time this morning. I enjoyed talking with you about the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) “On the COVID-19 Front Lines” story project. Here is a link to the stories that ABMS posted in the last couple of weeks: <https://www.certificationmatters.org/about/on-the-covid-19-front-lines/>.*

*As you can see, they are brief and give an authentic glimpse into what life is/was like on the front lines for these diplomates during the pandemic. We have several more in the approval pipeline that will be posted next week. We are hoping to finish up with about 25-30 total, so we would appreciate your help in identifying appropriate diplomates from Georgia and around the country.*

#### **What we need:**

*An ABMS Member Board diplomate who has been on the front lines of COVID-19, (from hospital administration to hands-on care to lab work—we want to hear it all), to share their experiences. They can either complete and send me the attached form **or** do a phone interview with me for about 15 minutes at their convenience. I will need a high-resolution photo of them, either on the job or a formal headshot is fine.*

*The diplomate has final approval on the story that is posted. This whole process takes about 1-2 weeks, from interview to posting online. We may use these stories in other formats, including our newsletters.*

*If you are able to help me identify some diplomates for this project, I would appreciate it. To get the process started, they can contact me via email at [nheller@abms.org](mailto:nheller@abms.org).*

### **Physician Advocacy Institute**

PAI commissioned a study on the impact of high deductible plans on independent practices. The study found the following results:

- 79 percent of physicians believe that high health insurance deductibles are a key driver of patients’ cost concerns.
- 80 percent of physicians believe their patients often or sometimes refuse or delay care due to cost concerns.
- More than half of the physicians reported that patients’ delay of care caused capacity or schedule issues for their practice.

- 77 percent of providers say it takes more than a month to receive any payment.
- Three out of four physicians say that they don't have most of the information they need in order to have cost of care discussions with patients.
- Most physicians say their office staff spends more than 300 hours per year educating patients on their coverage.

MAG was integral in having this study conducted. MAG is a member of the board of directors for PAI. For more information on the study, please go to [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/PAI\\_survey\\_highlights\\_challenges\\_associated\\_with\\_high-deductible\\_plans.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/PAI_survey_highlights_challenges_associated_with_high-deductible_plans.aspx).

### **House of Delegates**

By August 1<sup>st</sup>, MAG leadership will make a decision on whether to hold the 2020 House of Delegates in person or virtually. We will keep you informed as to the process we will use to ensure a fair discussion on the issues. Please see the latest alert that went out yesterday - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/MAG\\_HOD\\_2020\\_Update.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_HOD_2020_Update.aspx).

### **Wear a Mask**

COVID-19 cases are on the rise. Please see the following MAG message encouraging all physicians to advise their patients on best practices – which includes wearing a mask in public - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/MAG\\_encouraging\\_physicians\\_to\\_reinforce\\_best\\_COVID-19\\_practices\\_with\\_patients.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_encouraging_physicians_to_reinforce_best_COVID-19_practices_with_patients.aspx).

### **Top Docs Show**

We have been very busy with the MAG Top Docs Show. Please see the latest episodes addressing a variety of topics:

- Sickle Cell Disease - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/Top\\_Docs\\_addresses\\_sickle\\_cell\\_Be\\_the\\_Match\\_bone\\_marrow\\_donor\\_program.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Top_Docs_addresses_sickle_cell_Be_the_Match_bone_marrow_donor_program.aspx)
- Telehealth and Telemedicine - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/New\\_Top\\_Docs\\_addresses\\_telemedicine\\_telehealth\\_from\\_M.D.\\_D.O.\\_perspectives.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New_Top_Docs_addresses_telemedicine_telehealth_from_M.D._D.O._perspectives.aspx).
- Managing stress/anxiety during times of unrest - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News\\_Articles/New\\_Top\\_Docs\\_addresses\\_managing\\_stress\\_anxiety\\_during\\_times\\_of\\_unrest\\_uncertainty.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New_Top_Docs_addresses_managing_stress_anxiety_during_times_of_unrest_uncertainty.aspx).

Please have a safe and wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Donald

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