

THIRD PARTY PAYER

Special Report: 09.20

SUBJECT: Annual Report
SUBMITTED BY: Ryan M. Larosa, MBA, Director
REFERRED TO: Not Referred

1 MAG continues to advocate on behalf of its member practices to alleviate burdens by third party payers.

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3 Staff continued monitoring payer temporary rules and new policies as it relates to practicing during
4 COVID-19. MAG has maintained contact with the Department of Insurance on payer relations as it
5 relates to these temporary payer policies.

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7 A new potential ally for payer relations is laboratory companies who provide COVID-19 testing. Staff has
8 had discussions with several laboratory companies that have reported that health carriers are utilizing the
9 same “take-it-or-leave-it” approach with them that they do with physician practices. One company said
10 that one carrier consistently pays them below their cost for analyzing COVID-19 tests.

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12 After the conclusion of the late legislative session in June, MAG hosted monthly Third-Party-Payer
13 meetings to discuss potential action items. Some items for discussion included:

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- 15 • Telehealth Parity Rules
- 16 • Pushing Prior Authorization reform through Insurance Commissioner directives
- 17 • Contracting Practices of Payers
- 18 • Telehealth Recommendations for the Composite Medical Board

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20 The Governor’s office and the Georgia Department of Public Health reached out to MAG staff in August
21 discuss how to increase COVID-19 testing in private physician offices. Working with our specialty and
22 county partners, MAG was able to put together a quick list of recommendations on how to increase
23 overall testing capacity in Georgia.

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25 MAG staff, President Andrew Reisman, M.D., and President-Elect Lisa Perry-Gilkes, M.D. had a call
26 with Governor Kemp to explain our list of recommendations and have also discussed these
27 recommendations with senior staff at the Department of Insurance (DOI).

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29 MAG is now hosting monthly TPP calls that include physicians, practice staff, state specialty society
30 executives, and CMS executives. The members of these calls work together to create surveys and
31 maintain constant communication with DOI on market trends. In addition to these monthly calls, we are
32 also doing monthly COVID-19 specific calls. These calls allow us to bring in other stakeholders in health
33 care, such as pharmacists and laboratory companies.

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