

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA


[JOIN/RENEW MAG](#)
[JOIN GAMPAC](#)
WWW.MAG.ORG


**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**LEARN
MORE**

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

MAG to offer powerful data analytics tool

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and KaMMCO Health Solutions (KHS) have established a partnership that will transform the state's health care system by developing a health IT solution that will enable physicians to generate sophisticated patient data reports that they can use to improve outcomes and fulfill the new quality-based payer metrics.

"This new entity will establish a private, statewide health information exchange that participating physicians can use to share key patient data," says MAG President John S. Harvey, M.D. "It will help physicians and other health care providers, including accountable care organizations, improve patient outcomes and fulfill the metrics that are now being required by the new performance-based payment models through the use of data analytics and business intelligence tools."

MAG Executive Director and CEO Donald J. Palmisano Jr. agrees, stressing that, "This is a dynamic health care solution, a patient-focused and physician-led entity whose mission and values are fully aligned with MAG's."

He believes that, "This is going to appeal to a lot of physicians and other health care providers who have remained on the sidelines because they haven't found the right 'fit' given the options that are currently available in Georgia."

With the new alternative payment models that have been developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a result of federal law – including the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and a number of Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) – Palmisano says that it is imperative for physicians to be able to secure and submit the data they need to demonstrate that they are delivering quality care.

Dr. Harvey explains that, "Physicians will be able to use this new system to generate reports that they can use to address high-risk patients and chronic disease populations while improving patient outcomes through enhanced care coordination."

And Susan Moore, who is the director of MAG's Health Policy and Third Party Payer Advocacy Department, is convinced that, "There is a clear opportunity for this kind of endeavor to succeed in Georgia based on the feedback that we have received from physicians and other stakeholders across the state who want a proven technology for connectivity that also delivers actionable intelligence while providing patients with access to their own health data."

Moore emphasizes that, "This new health information tool will provide

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's FREE Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

- Yes
- No

physicians with seamless, real-time access to their patient's full longitudinal medical record at the point of care."

She adds that, "We are also talking about an analytic capability that will enable the medical profession and other health care providers to improve clinical outcomes and community health by, for example, identifying trends and gaps in care and reducing inefficiencies."

KHS is a subsidiary of KaMMCO – which is a professional medical liability company – and the Kansas Medical Society, which Palmisano says "has realized a great deal of success in this arena."

KHS President and CEO Kurt Scott is applauding MAG. He believes that, "By taking this action, MAG has really enhanced its brand and reputation as a forward-looking advocate for patients and physicians in Georgia."

The new system is expected to be up and running in the next several months, during which time it will develop its policies and price structure.

Finally, it is worth noting that MAG is expected to establish an advisory committee that will consist of MAG members.

Physicians and other health care providers can contact Moore at 678.303.9275 or smoore@mag.org with questions. They can also monitor www.mag.org for breaking developments – including the development of a website that will be created to address the new entity.

Go to www.KaMMCOHealthSolutions.com for additional information on KaMMCO.

Next Article ▶



Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA


[JOIN/RENEW MAG](#)
[JOIN GAMPAC](#)
WWW.MAG.ORG



**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**
 OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM
 In conjunction with:
 American College of Legal Medicine &
 International Academy of Independent
 Medical Evaluators
[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

LEARN MORE 
**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**
 • Online • Start Anytime
 **The University of Georgia**
 Center for Continuing Education

MAG unveils HC innovation, Zika resources

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) has enhanced its award-winning mag.org website with two new features, including a 'Georgia Health Care Innovation Portal' and a Zika virus resources page.

The 'Georgia Health Care Innovation Portal' is designed to "assist physicians in Georgia who develop novel concepts to enhance the health care system in the state – including medical devices and information technology and the course of treatment."

Lance M. Black, M.D., with the Global Center for Medical Innovation explains that, "These organizations can help physicians from the beginning of the process to the end – including raising capital and building prototypes."

The organizations that are featured on the portal include...

– Georgia Bio, which is "involved in the development of life sciences which are related to products and services."

– Health Connect South, which "serves as a gateway between industry silos" and "provides unique and meaningful partnership opportunities" and "facilitates collaborative conversations that are focused on meeting the needs of patients who live in the Southeast using an interdisciplinary approach."

– Society of Physician Entrepreneurs (SoPE)/Atlanta Chapter, which "empowers biomedical and health care entrepreneurs to take their health care concepts from the beginning to the end of the commercialization process."

– Southeastern Medical Device Association, which "provides unique networking opportunities, industry intelligence, and professional development for medical device professionals, inventors, physicians, and investors who are interested in accelerating the growth of the medical device industry in the Southeast."

– Global Center for Medical Innovation, which is the "Southeast's only comprehensive medical device innovation center" that has "worked with more than 40 startups, clinician innovators, university tech transfer offices and academic researchers to design, engineer, prototype, and facilitate commercialization of a broad range of innovative medical devices."

– Translational Testing and Training Laboratories, which "seeks to improve patient outcomes by accelerating product commercialization with industry and academic collaborators in the biomedical research field" and "works with

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723



Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

sponsors in every therapeutic area to conduct GLP and non-GLP studies in small and large animal models.”

Contact Dr. Black at 850.218.5259 or www.devices.net with questions.

[Click for MAG's new 'Georgia Health Care Innovation Portal'](#)

The new Zika resources page, meanwhile, highlights resources from the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It also features a recording of a May 10 MAG 'Top Docs Radio' show that addresses the Zika virus.

Georgians can go to <https://dph.georgia.gov/zika> or call their district or county health department or DPH at 404.657.2588 with questions related to the Zika virus or other mosquito borne diseases.

[Click for MAG's new Zika resources web page](#)

[Previous Article](#)

[Next Article](#)



Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA


[JOIN/RENEW MAG](#)
[JOIN GAMPAC](#)
WWW.MAG.ORG


2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

LEARN
MORE



Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime



The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

AMA says VA proposal to give APRNs "full authority" would undermine patient care – physicians urged to comment

The American Medical Association (AMA) reports that the Veterans Health Administration has published a proposed rule that “would give full authority to four categories of APRNs: Certified Nurse practitioner (CNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), or Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM).”

AMA also notes that “the proposed rule defines ‘full practice authority’ to mean that an APRN working within the scope of VA employment would be authorized to provide services without the clinical oversight of a physician, regardless of state or local law restrictions on that authority. APRNs working outside of VA facilities would remain subject to state laws on APRN scope of practice. Federal preemption will be used to side-step state medical licensure laws such that APRNs who work for the VA will have full authority inside the VA.”

AMA Board Chair Stephen R. Permut, M.D., J.D., responded with a statement that says that...

The American Medical Association is disappointed by the Department of Veterans Affairs’ unprecedented proposal to allow advanced practice nurses within the VA to practice independently of a physician’s clinical oversight, regardless of individual state law.

While the AMA supports the VA in addressing the challenges that exist within the VA health system, we believe that providing physician-led, patient-centered, team-based patient care is the best approach to improving quality care for our country’s veterans. We feel this proposal will significantly undermine the delivery of care within the VA. With over 10,000 hours of education and training, physicians bring tremendous value to the health care team. All patients deserve access to physician expertise, whether for primary care, chronic health management, anesthesia, or pain medicine.

There are many examples from across the nation demonstrating that physician-led team-based care results in improved access to high-quality, cost-effective health care. From patient-centered medical homes to some of the nation’s largest health care systems, physician-led inter-professional team-based health care has proven to be a successful model in the delivery of health care. The nation’s top health care systems rely on physician-led teams to achieve improved care and patient health, while reducing costs. We expect the same for our country’s veterans, and look to these systems as evidence that physician-led, team-based models of care are the future of American health care.

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723



Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

The AMA urges the VA to maintain the physician-led model within the VA health system to ensure greater integration and coordination of care for veterans and improve health outcomes.

[Click for proposed rule](#)

In addition to AMA, the Medical Association of Georgia, the American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA), and the Georgia Society of Anesthesiology are among the groups that are urging physicians to submit comments to oppose the proposed rule.

ASA says that it has "worked extensively to challenge the [proposed rule] because the Veterans Health System would then not comply with best practices nor with state law. State codes on nursing practice, specific to diagnosis, would be void in the Veterans Health system."

ASA has created a web portal to streamline the process for submitting comments to address the proposed rule. The deadline to submit comments on the proposed rule is July 25.

[Click to submit comments on proposed rule \(i.e., ASA portal\)](#)

[Previous Article](#)

[Next Article](#)



Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM
In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEARN
MORE



Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

 The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

Remember to make plans for MAG's HOD, legislative meeting

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is reminding its members to make plans to attend two key meetings, including...

– MAG's 'Summer Legislative Education Seminar,' which will take place at The Westin Jekyll Island on Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30

– MAG's House of Delegates (HOD) meeting, which will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah on Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16

Call 912.635.4545 and reference the "Medical Association of Georgia" or click here to obtain a discounted room rate of \$199 per night plus taxes at the Westin – keeping in mind that the discount will only be available until Friday, June 17. MAG will distribute additional information on this meeting as it becomes available.

MAG's Board of Directors will meet at the Hyatt on the afternoon of Friday, October 14.

Contact Anita Amin at aamin@mag.org or 404.299.7700 with questions related to HOD lodging.

MAG is also reminding county medical society and specialty society leaders and MAG members to nominate the individuals that they believe deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the medical profession for MAG's annual awards, which will be presented at MAG's HOD meeting on Saturday, October 15.

Nominations for the *Lamartine Hardman Cup*, the *Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D., Physician Distinguished Service Award*, and the *John B. Rabun Award* must be submitted by a county medical society. The *Jack A. Raines, M.D., Humanitarian Award*, the *Donna Glass Non-Physician Distinguished Service Award*, and the *Physician's Award for Community Service* nominations may be submitted by a county medical society or an individual member.

Sponsors must complete the following online nomination form by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 29. Sponsors may also submit optional supporting documents (e.g., letters, articles, CV) to Samantha Grantham at sgrantham@mag.org by the deadline on July 29. Nominations that are mailed through the postal system will not be accepted. The MAG Awards Committee will accept re-nominations. Contact Grantham at sgrantham@mag.org with questions.

[Click to submit award nomination](#)

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



[Click for list of past award recipients](#)

[Click to register for MAG's 'Summer Legislative Education Seminar'](#)

[Click for details on MAG's HOD](#)

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶



Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

e-News from MAG



NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA





**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

**PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM**

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



the left are Dr. Cherie Drenzek, C.W. Hall, and Dr. Patrick O'Neal.

**LEARN
MORE** 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
Center for Continuing Education

Recordings of three recent Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) 'Top Docs Radio' shows are now available online.

In a special edition of the program that aired on May 9, Doug Patten, M.D. – the chief medical officer of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) – discussed practice transformation networks (PTN).

He explained that, "PTN are designed to improve health outcomes, improve care coordination, better engage patients and their families, improve patient and practice satisfaction, and reduce the overall cost of care."

The initiative is related to the transition that Medicare will make from a volume-based payment system to a quality-based payment system in the next several years.

There are four PTN that support clinicians in Georgia, including the Compass PTN – which has been endorsed by MAG given its "multi-year collaboration with GHA on matters related to quality, safety and community health." The Compass PTN will serve more than 7,000 primary and specialty care clinicians in six states.

It is also worth noting that a listener posted the following question on the 'Top Docs Radio' blog following Dr. Patten's appearance on the program...

"I listened to the podcast with Dr. Patten, and I was wondering how a specialty clinic such as ours (OB/GYN) will be part of an outcome-based system. I see a

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



Healthy Professionals,
Healthy Georgia

gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



Medical Association of Georgia
Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

WWW.GEORGADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

- Yes
- No

small part of our patient population that have co-morbidities such as abnormal paps, gestational diabetes, etc. being monitored but the majority are not followed long-term unlike the primary care physician population. Any thoughts on how TCPI will come into play for us and to what degree?"

Dr. Patten responded by explaining that, "The Compass PTN supports all physicians – regardless of specialty – in assessing their readiness for the new payment models and helping every practice take steps to improve their performance. There are quality metrics for most general medical specialties. All are 'under construction' in that they are constantly being re-evaluated. As an OB/GYN, there may be opportunities to explore improvement in one of the six areas, including person and family-centered experience and outcomes, patient safety, care coordination, effective clinical care, community/population health, and efficiency and cost reduction. Measures that ACOG have noted are relevant from a women's health perspective include preventive care and screening (breast cancer/mammography, cervical cancer, chlamydia in women ages 21-24; screening for clinical depression); flu shots for patients who are older than 50; reductions in elective delivery before 39 weeks gestation; the use of antenatal steroids; prenatal and postpartum care: the postpartum care rate; the use of antibiotic prophylaxis prior to surgery; DXA for patients who are older than 65; smoking cessation; and the use of HIT. You can also go to <https://pqrs.cms.gov/#/home> for a CMS tool that may prove useful."

On May 10, State Epidemiologist Cherie Drenzek, DVM, MS, and Georgia Director of Health Protection Patrick O'Neal, M.D., discussed the Zika viral disease.

They explained that Zika is primarily transmitted to people by Aedes species mosquitoes. The most common Zika symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis – and the illness usually involves mild symptoms that last for several days to a week.

"But when it comes to pregnant women, Zika is an unprecedented public health emergency," Dr. Drenzek said. "This is the first time in more than 50 years that a virus has been linked to serious birth defects and poor pregnancy outcomes."

Dr. O'Neal explained that, "Prior to 2015, Zika outbreaks had been limited to Africa, Southeast Asia, and islands in the Pacific Ocean. The first Zika virus transmission in Brazil wasn't confirmed until May of 2015 – but outbreaks are now occurring in a number of countries in the Americas and the rest of the world."

He also stressed that, "We are not aware of any mosquito-borne Zika virus disease cases in the continental United States, but there have been reports of travel-related and sexually-transmitted cases in the U.S."

Georgians can call their district or county health department or DPH at 404.657.2588 with questions related to the Zika virus or other mosquito borne diseases.

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

And on May 24, Elizabeth Woodcock, who is a leading third party payer and practice management expert, addressed how medical practices can make a successful transition to Medicare's new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

She said that, "Instead of the EHR (Electronic Health Record) or the PQRS (Physician Quality Reporting System) or the Value-based Payment Modifier programs, the government will employ a single payment platform – which is the result of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) that was signed into law in 2015."

Woodcock also noted that, "The new payment model will be based on a 100-point MIPS Composite Performance Score. That CPS will determine your Medicare payment adjustment – either up or down."

She explained that, "This is scheduled to commence in 2019, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will use the 2017 calendar year as the basis for the initial reimbursement – keeping mind this is not an optional process."

Finally, a practice administrator asked Woodcock the following question following her appearance on the "Top Docs" program...

"Is there any information that you can give me on the cost comparison of doing what is needed for MIPS/APM versus the reimbursement if you do not do all that is required? If we have physicians that are not going to do this do we know for certain it is going to cost them 27 percent of their Medicare reimbursement?"

Woodcock responded by stating that, "Let's consider the payment adjustments dictated by the program. The maximum reduction is a negative 9 percent applied to Medicare. A typical practice would collect approximately \$100,000 from Medicare. Of course, that varies – but it's a good starting point to apply the four percent reduction (i.e., \$4,000 in 2019 to \$9,000 in 2022 and beyond). For some practices like ophthalmology or cardiology, that figure may be higher than \$500,000 – making the penalties much higher (\$20,000 in 2019 and \$45,000 in 2022 and beyond). Note that any advanced practice provider billed under the physician's name (as 'incident to') would be impacted negatively as well, and penalties are applied to all Medicare reimbursement – not just office-based services. After understanding what my potential downside might be, the factors that I would consider are: 1) When am I going to retire? 2) What capital investments have I already made – or what capital investments would I need to make to participate? 3) What activities am I already doing that wouldn't cost me to continue doing? (e.g., if I'm already participating in PQRS and the measures are reduced from nine to six, could I just keep plugging away without costing us anything?) In my opinion, if the answer to the first question is within five years, I wouldn't participate and I wouldn't worry about it. If I'm not planning to retire in the next five years but I haven't invested in an EHR, then I need to consider the cost/benefit. Unfortunately, the bonus payment (\$44,000 to \$63,750 from Medicare and Medicaid, respectively) is gone so my "return" would be limited to any boost in reimbursement, which will likely not exceed the purchase price. Consideration of the resources required to participate (e.g., staff time) must also come into play, but if you're already participating in the government's pay-for-performance plans there should be no incremental cost to continue (as the proposal streamlines them). So consider that recruiting a new physician to join you or selling your practice will be all but impossible with paper records. It's been a number of years since a resident or a fellow has seen a paper chart. Often, this last perspective tips the scales – although it's hard to quantify. In sum, 1) gather data about your annual Medicare reimbursement and 2) apply the downward adjustments to determine the potential penalty and 3) determine your retirement strategy and 4) assess your capacity requirements and 5) evaluate the activities you are currently

pursuing."

[Click for additional details on Woodcock's response](#)

MAG sponsors the 'Top Docs' program at 12 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Listeners can go to <https://twitter.com/TopDocsOnBRX> to submit questions to 'Top Docs' host C.W. Hall during the program. Between downloads and live listeners, MAG's 'Top Docs' show has reached more than 5,000 listeners – which includes people in all 50 states and 84 countries.

[Click for 'Top Docs' show on PTN](#)

[Click for 'Top Docs' show on Zika](#)

[Click for 'Top Docs' show on Medicare pay](#)

[Click to join the Compass PTN](#)

[Click for MAG's Zika resources web page](#)

[Click for Woodcock & Associates website](#)



Dr. Doug Patten



From the left are Susan Moore, C.W. Hall, and Elizabeth Woodcock.

[◀ Previous Article](#)

[Next Article ▶](#)



June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEARN MORE

Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

AMA president addresses opioid crisis in letter to physicians

The American Medical Association (AMA) released the following open letter to physicians from AMA President Steven J. Slack, M.D. – an emergency physician – on May 11...

The medical profession must play a lead role in reversing the opioid epidemic that, far too often, has started from a prescription pad.

For the past 20 years, public policies – well-intended but now known to be flawed – compelled doctors to treat pain more aggressively for the comfort of our patients. But today's crisis plainly tells us we must be much more cautious with how we prescribe opioids.

At present, nearly two million Americans – people across the economic spectrum, in small towns and big cities – suffer from an opioid use disorder. As a result, tens of thousands of Americans are dying every year and more still will die because of a tragic resurgence in the use of heroin.

As a profession that places patient well-being as our highest priority, we must accept responsibility to re-examine prescribing practices. We must begin by preventing our patients from becoming addicted to opioids in the first place. We must work with federal and private health insurers to enable access to multi-disciplinary treatment programs for patients with pain and expand access for medication-assisted treatment for those with opioid use disorders. We must do these things with compassion and attention to the needs of our patients despite conflicting public policies that continue to assert unreasonable expectations for pain control.

As a practicing emergency physician and AMA President, I call on all physicians to take the following steps – immediately – to reverse the nation's opioid overdose and death epidemic...

– AVOID initiating opioids for new patients with chronic non-cancer pain unless the expected benefits are anticipated to outweigh the risks. Non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy are preferred.

– LIMIT the amount of opioids prescribed for post-operative care and acutely-injured patients. Physicians should prescribe the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration for pain severe enough to require opioids, being careful not to prescribe merely for the possible convenience of prescriber or patient. Physician professional judgment and discretion is important in this determination.

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's FREE Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE to print your free card!



Medical Association of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

– REGISTER for and USE your state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to assist in the care of patients when considering the use of any controlled substances.

– REDUCE stigma to enable effective and compassionate care.

– WORK compassionately to reduce opioid exposure in patients who are already on chronic opioid therapy when risks exceed benefits.

– IDENTIFY and ASSIST patients with opioid use disorder in obtaining evidence-based treatment.

– CO-PRESCRIBE naloxone to patients who are at risk for overdose.

As physicians, we are on the front lines of an opioid epidemic that is crippling communities across the country. We must accept and embrace our professional responsibility to treat our patients' pain without worsening the current crisis. These are actions we must take as physicians individually and collectively to do our part to end this epidemic.

[Click to register for Georgia PDMP](#)

Previous Article

Next Article



Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEARN MORE

Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

MAG encouraging physicians to join AMPAC & GAMPAC

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is encouraging physicians in the state to support AMPAC, which is the American Medical Association's (AMA) political action committee.

AMPAC Board Member Stephen A. Imbeau, M.D., reports that AMPAC recently supported the "[U.S. Rep. Doug] Collins for Congress" campaign with a \$5,000 contribution.

Dr. Imbeau stresses that, "While AMA does cover some of staff and overhead costs, AMPAC contributions only come from its members and not from the AMA – so it is imperative for physicians in Georgia to support AMPAC to ensure that we continue to elect pro-physician candidates into office."

AMPAC membership levels include...

- Capitol Club Platinum, the premier membership level for physicians who contribute \$2,500 or more a year
- Capitol Club Gold, which is for physicians and others who contribute \$1,000 to \$2,499 a year
- Capitol Club Silver, which is for physicians and others who contribute \$500 to \$999 a year

In addition to an annual payment option, AMPAC members can make their donation using an automated monthly credit card withdrawal option.

[Click to join AMPAC](#)

[Click for AMPAC website](#)

Physicians who have questions about AMPAC can contact Dr. Imbeau at stephenimbeau@yahoo.com.

Physicians in Georgia are also encouraged to join GAMPAC, which is MAG's non-partisan political action committee that elects pro-physician candidates at the state level.

Contact GAMPAC Director Kimberly Ramseur at kramseur@mag.org or 678.303.9273 to join GAMPAC.

[Click for GAMPAC website](#)

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's FREE Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

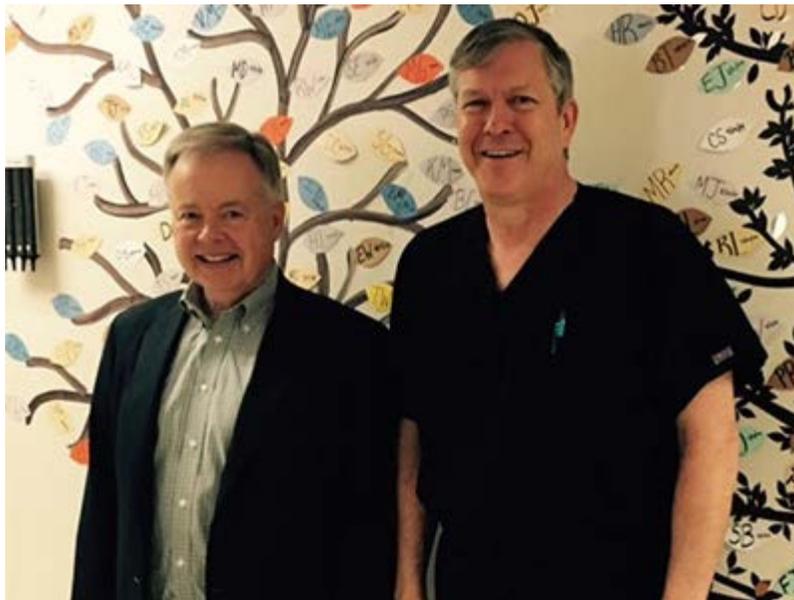
Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No



AMPAC recently supported the 'Collins for Congress' campaign with \$5,000 contribution. On hand for the check presentation were (from the left) Jack M. Chapman Jr., M.D., Rep. Collins, and Stephen W. Jarrard, M.D.



AMPAC recently supported Georgia Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) with a \$500 campaign contribution. On hand for the check presentation were (from the left) Sen. Wilkinson and Stephen W. Jarrard, M.D.

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)



1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA


[JOIN/RENEW MAG](#)
[JOIN GAMPAC](#)
WWW.MAG.ORG


2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

LEARN
MORE 

Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

 The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

MAG Alliance applauding state lawmakers and Gov. Nathan Deal for passing Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act

The Medical Association of Georgia Alliance (MAG Alliance) – which is a network of physicians' spouses who volunteer to improve the health of all Georgians – is applauding state lawmakers and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal for passing and enacting the Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act.

"Representative Sharon Cooper demonstrated great vision and leadership in introducing H.B. 649, which will create a lactation consultant advisory committee and establish guidelines to license individuals who want to be lactation consultants," says MAG Alliance President Merrilee Gober. "Of course, the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) also played a crucial role as a leading advocate for this bill."

MAG President John S. Harvey, M.D., explains that, "This legislation is consistent with a policy that MAG's House of Delegates passed in 2012, so we were pleased to find out that Governor Deal passed this into law on April 26."

Gober says that, "We are confident that this law is going to improve the health of numerous mothers and babies in Georgia. It will also provide physicians the opportunity to employ lactation consultants in their practices giving patients easy access to the service."

Founded in 1924, the MAG Alliance supports a number of important initiatives – including the MAG Foundation's 'Think About It' campaign to reduce prescription drug abuse and the Georgia Department of Public Health's 'SHAPE' program to promote youth fitness.

Every Georgia physician's spouse can currently join the MAG Alliance for free.

Go to <http://www.mag.org/affiliates/mag-alliance> for additional information on the MAG Alliance. Contact Gober at 404.272.1103 or magober@bellsouth.net for additional information.

[◀ Previous Article](#)

[Next Article ▶](#)



A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only **\$68.88**
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only **\$143.95**



1.800.667.9723

The logo for georgiadrugcard.com, featuring a stylized orange and yellow flame or leaf icon to the left of the text "georgiadrugcard.com" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

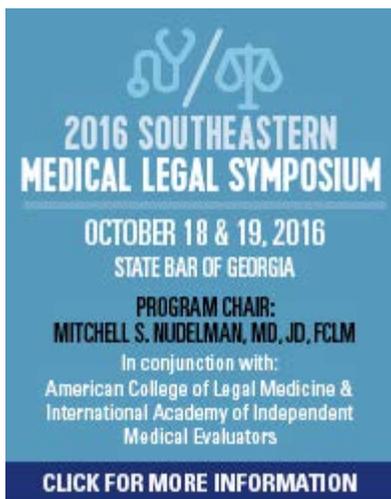
NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG

2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM
 OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
 PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM
 In conjunction with:
 American College of Legal Medicine &
 International Academy of Independent
 Medical Evaluators
 CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

MAG member to lead physician health group

Paul H. Earley, M.D., a member of the Medical Association of Georgia and the medical director of the Georgia Professional Health Program (Georgia PHP), was recently elected to be the president-elect of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP) for 2016. He will serve as FSPHP's president in 2018. Dr. Earley has been an addiction specialist for 30 years.

The Georgia PHP is a not-for-profit foundation that provides "initial triage, referral to treatment, and long-term monitoring services for health care professionals with substance use disorders and other mental health conditions." It receives no state funding and "relies solely on member fees and donations, which are tax deductible."

Contact Robin McCown at 678.825.3764 or robin.mccown@gaphp.org with questions. Go to www.gaphp.org for additional information.



LEARN MORE 

Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
 Center for Continuing Education

[◀ Previous Article](#) [Next Article ▶](#)



A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

 georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



Medical Association
of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

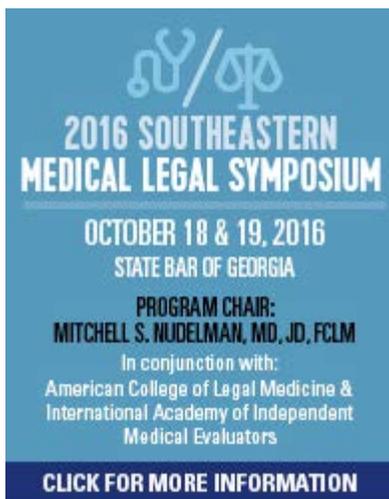
NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG

2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine & International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION



LEARN MORE 

Healthcare Management Certificate

• Online • Start Anytime

 The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

Physicians Foundation releases patient survey report

The Physicians Foundation has released the results of its first comprehensive patient survey, which “found that the physician-patient relationship remains strong, with nine out of 10 U.S. adults reporting high levels of satisfaction with their primary care physicians (PCP).”

The research found that “95 percent of patients surveyed are satisfied or very satisfied with their PCP's ability to explain information in a manner they understand, while 96 percent feel their physicians are respectful of them.”

However, the study also determined that “patients who saw a primary care physician for their most recent routine exam are not fully adhering to treatment plans, avoiding routine check-ups, or opting not to take prescription medication due to rising health care costs.”

The Physicians Foundation is a “national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to advance the work of practicing physicians and help facilitate the delivery of health care to patients.” Since 2005, it has awarded grants totaling more than \$36 million. It focuses on physician leadership, physician practice trends, physician shortage issues, and health care reform.

[Click for press release](#)

[Click for complete research report](#)

[Click for Physicians Foundation website](#)

 [Previous Article](#)

[Next Article](#) 



A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723



Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG



NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA

JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG




**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
 MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**
 OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
 PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM
 In conjunction with:
 American College of Legal Medicine &
 International Academy of Independent
 Medical Evaluators
 CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Practices can order hard Georgia Drug Cards for free

The Georgia Drug Card has announced that medical practices can order hard copies of the Georgia Drug Card to make available to their patients in their office for free by sending an email to John Cenerazzo at johnc@georgiadrugcard.com.

The Georgia Drug Card says that patients who have high-deductible plans or who do not have prescription coverage or who take prescription drugs that aren't covered by their health insurance plan can use the Georgia Drug Card to obtain savings of up to 75 percent off the retail price for brand and generic FDA-approved medications.

Georgians can also print the Georgia Drug Card for free at www.georgiadrugcard.com or they can simply request the Georgia Drug Card discount at any CVS/pharmacy in the state.

In a related development, the Georgia Drug Card has announced that it now offers a discount dental care program. Patients can go to www.georgiadrugcard.com and click on the 'Aetna Dental' button to print a free card to save on dental procedures.

LEARN MORE 

**Healthcare
 Management
 Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
 Center for Continuing Education

 [Previous Article](#)

[Next Article](#) 



A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only **\$68.88**
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only **\$143.95**



1.800.667.9723

The logo for georgiadrugcard.com features a stylized orange and yellow flame or leaf icon to the left of the text "georgiadrugcard.com" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG



NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA

[JOIN/RENEW MAG](#)

[JOIN GAMPAC](#)

WWW.MAG.ORG





**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**LEARN
MORE** 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
Center for Continuing Education

New Members

MAG welcomed the following new members during May...

- Lance Michael Black, M.D., Marietta
- Wesley Davis, M.D., Augusta
- Paul Henry Earley, M.D., Atlanta
- Sarah Elizabeth Eriksen, M.D., Augusta
- Poonaminder Kaur, M.D., Augusta
- Maria Carolina Machado, M.D., Augusta
- Roger F. Nelson, M.D., Tolland
- Dee William Pettigrew III, M.D., Watkinsville
- Ramana Puppala, M.D., South Barrington
- Christy Adkins Thomas, M.D., Augusta
- James Patrick Walton, M.D., Cherry Point
- Sylvia Walton Wright, M.D., Atlanta

[◀ Previous Article](#)

[Next Article ▶](#)



A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723



Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

Agency: Insurers' merger would "violate" Missouri standards

Medical Association of Georgia Executive Director Donald J. Palmisano Jr. reports that the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Regulation has issued an order that says that the proposed merger between Aetna and Humana would violate competitive standards and that the health insurers would not be allowed to conduct business in the state if the merger goes through – though the companies will be given additional time to propose corrective action.

“This is great news for organized medicine,” says Palmisano. “The American Medical Association and the Missouri State Medical Association should be applauded for their efforts to oppose the merger.”

Palmisano also expects Georgia’s Office of Insurance to schedule a hearing on the subject in the near future.

[Click for order](#)

[Click for MAG’s ‘Why the mergers are bad for Georgia’ web page](#)

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶




**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEARN MORE 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime



The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

The logo for georgiadrugcard.com features a stylized orange and yellow flame-like icon to the left of the text "georgiadrugcard.com" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



Medical Association
of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

Georgia DCH seeks comments on new Medicaid process

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) has announced that it will host two public meetings to “gather input on the agency’s new centralized [Medicaid] provider credentialing and verification process.”

DCH says that the first meeting will take place in the Board Room on the fifth floor of its office at 2 Peachtree Street NW in Atlanta from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Monday, June 20.

The second meeting will then take place at the State Office of Rural Health at 502 Seventh Street South in Cordele from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22.

Georgians can also submit comments to DCH at cvo.feedback@dch.ga.gov until the end of the day on Thursday, June 30.

[Click for additional information](#)

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶





**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

**LEARN
MORE** 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

 georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG



NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA

JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

Georgia DCH hosting free Medicaid EHR “boot camps”

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) will host two free Medicaid EHR Incentive Program “boot camps” at the Southwest Chatham Library at 14097 Abercorn Street in Savannah on Wednesday, June 15. DCH says participants can attend a morning session from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or an afternoon session from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

According to DCH, “Eligible providers with a Medicaid patient volume of at least 30 percent can receive up to \$63,750 during their six years of program participation.”

DCH says the event will feature “free one-on-one assistance” with...

- Selecting a certified EHR system
- Patient Volume Calculator
- Meaningful Use Stages 1 & 2
- Audit prevention and preparation
- Connecting to a Health Information Exchange (HIE)

Go to dch.georgia.gov/ehr for details on the Georgia Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

[Click to register](#)

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶




2016 SOUTHEASTERN MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM
 OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
 STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
 PROGRAM CHAIR:
 MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM
 In conjunction with:
 American College of Legal Medicine &
 International Academy of Independent
 Medical Evaluators
 CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION



LEARN MORE →
Healthcare Management Certificate
 • Online • Start Anytime
 The University of Georgia
 Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only **\$68.88**
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only **\$143.95**



1.800.667.9723

The logo for georgiadrugcard.com features a stylized orange and yellow flame-like icon to the left of the text "georgiadrugcard.com" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

CMS issues MACRA fact sheet for small practices

The American Medical Association (AMA) reports that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a 'MACRA – Flexibilities and support for small practices' fact sheet that outlines aspects of the proposed MACRA regulation that were intended to address the needs of smaller physician practices...[AMA says it] explains that the rather alarming impact table projecting a disproportionately severe impact on solo physicians and small groups is based on misleading data."

AMA says its "staff are working to identify refinements that could be made to the proposed rule to provide further relief and assistance to smaller practices. Those will be included in [AMA's] formal comments that will be submitted to CMS in late June."

[Click for 'MACRA – Flexibilities and support for small practices' fact sheet](#)

[Click for updated MACRA proposed rule summary](#)

Previous Article

Next Article





**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

**LEARN
MORE** 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

State of Georgia-compliant Prescription Pads & Paper

MAG Members Save 15%!

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

 georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG



NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA

JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

Amerigroup promoting webinars to help youth in need

Amerigroup is promoting its Georgia Families 360° organization, which serves "youth in foster care, as well as select youth in the juvenile justice system and the state adoption assistance program."

The organization has launched a free webinar series beginning in May covering "the different levels of care, review of medical necessity, the difference between an assessment and psychological testing, prior authorizations, and how to initiate behavioral health services in [Amerigroup's] provider network system."

Contact Leticia Mayfield at 678.587.4855 or leticia.mayfield@amerigroup.com with questions.

[Click to register for behavioral health referral process webinars](#)

[Click to register for cognitive behavioral therapy webinars](#)

[Click to register for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder \(ADHD\) webinars](#)

[Click for asthma webinars](#)

◀ Previous Article

Next Article ▶




**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

**LEARN
MORE** →

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime



The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only \$68.88
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only \$143.95



1.800.667.9723

 georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program ?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org

June 1, 2016

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



JOIN/RENEW MAG

JOIN GAMPAC

WWW.MAG.ORG



News Briefs

AMA conducting health innovation challenge

The American Medical Association (AMA) is conducting a 'Healthier Nation Innovation Challenge' that calls for "physicians, residents and medical students across the country to share their innovative solutions for improving the health of the nation."

The three winning finalists will receive a total of \$50,000 and "access to a support network to accelerate their solutions."

AMA notes that, "Teams/individuals representing the top five ideas will pitch live at the AMA Healthier Nation Innovation Challenge event on June 11 in Chicago, during the AMA Annual Meeting, where a panel of judges will select the top three winning ideas."

The deadline for submissions is May 16.

Go to www.innovatewithama.com for details.

Previous Article




**2016 SOUTHEASTERN
MEDICAL LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2016
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

PROGRAM CHAIR:
MITCHELL S. NUDELMAN, MD, JD, FCLM

In conjunction with:
American College of Legal Medicine &
International Academy of Independent
Medical Evaluators

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

**LEARN
MORE** 

**Healthcare
Management
Certificate**

• Online • Start Anytime

 **The University of Georgia**
Center for Continuing Education

A professional health program offering confidential treatment oversight and monitoring for physicians and physician assistants seeking help with addictive illnesses and other potentially impairing conditions.



gaphp.org | 855-MY-GA-PHP

**State of
Georgia-compliant
Prescription Pads & Paper**

**MAG Members
Save 15%!**

20 Pads for only **\$68.88**
2,000 Rx Paper Sheets for only **\$143.95**



1.800.667.9723

 georgiadrugcard.com

Georgia's **FREE** Prescription
Assistance Program

CLICK HERE
to print your free card!



Medical
Association
of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

WWW.GEORGIADRUGCARD.COM

Poll

Have you registered with
Georgia's Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program?

Yes

No

Newsletter Tools

[Search Past Issues](#)

[Print-Friendly Issue](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Subscribe to This Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe via RSS](#)

[Calendar](#)

1849 THE EXCHANGE ATLANTA, GA 30339 ■ 800.282.0224 ■ www.mag.org ■ communications@mag.org