

September 1, 2015

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NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



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HOD news, notes & deadlines



The Medical Association of Georgia's (MAG) 2015 House of Delegates (HOD) meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Savannah on Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18 – while MAG's Board of Directors will meet at the Hyatt Regency Savannah on Friday, October 16.

Lodging

The Hyatt Regency Savannah is sold out — though attendees are encouraged to contact their county medical society (if applicable) to determine if a room has already been reserved for them. Attendees who would like to be added to the Hyatt waitlist should contact Anita Amin at anita@jlh-consulting.com or 404.299.7700. Any waitlisted rooms that become available will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for a list of other nearby lodging options.

Elections

MAG members who are interested in running for MAG office for 2015-2016 should contact Donna Glass at dglass@mag.org or 678.303.9251. The elections will take place during the HOD meeting. The only requirement to run for office is that a candidate be an active (i.e., dues paying) MAG member for the last two years.

The following is the latest list of candidates who are running for MAG office for 2015-2016...

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'Narrow networks common with Obamacare insurance,' The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 26

President (automatic succession): John S. Harvey, M.D.

President-elect: Steven M. Walsh, M.D.

First Vice President (automatic succession): Madalyn N. Davidoff, M.D.

Second Vice President: Steven M. Huffman, M.D.

Secretary: Andrew B. Reisman, M.D.

Treasurer: Thomas E. Emerson, M.D.

AMA Delegate (for re-election): S. William Clark III, M.D.

AMA Delegate (for re-election): Michael E. Greene, M.D.

AMA Delegate (for re-election): Thomas E. Price, M.D.

AMA Delegate (for re-election): Sandra B. Reed, M.D.

AMA Alternate Delegate (for re-election): Billie Luke Jackson, M.D.

AMA Alternate Delegate: Alan L. Plummer, M.D. (for re-election) and John A. Goldman, M.D.

AMA Alternate Delegate (for position held by E. Dan DeLoach, M.D.): Gary C. Richter, M.D., and M. Todd Williamson, M.D.

Reports & Resolutions (due September 2)

Annual reports and resolutions for this year's HOD meeting must be submitted by tomorrow, Wednesday, September 2.

MAG Executive Director Donald J. Palmisano Jr. explains that HOD resolutions can be submitted by a county medical society (CMS) or state specialty society delegate or any HOD delegate who agrees to present an item of business.

Palmisano also notes that MAG directors and officers must prepare an annual report for the 2015 MAG HOD. He says these reports should include 1) meeting dates 2) activities and 3) a current list of directors. Alternate directors, meanwhile, are required to assist in the preparation of these reports as a bylaws requirement.

Resolutions and annual reports must be submitted in a Microsoft Word document format to Trish Yeatts at pyeatts@mag.org by tomorrow – Wednesday, September 2 – to be included in the HOD delegates' handbook. This cutoff date is especially relevant for resolutions that are related to MAG's Constitution and Bylaws given a 45-day bylaws requirement.

MAG staff will confirm the receipt of resolutions that are submitted with an email reply, but Palmisano emphasizes that, “If a delegate or director or an officer does not receive such an e-mail, their report will not be considered received.”

Go to www.mag.org/about-us/house-of-delegates or contact Yeatts at pyeatts@mag.org or 678.303.9274 with questions related to HOD resolutions.

GAMPAC



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GAMPAC Chair James Barber, M.D., has announced that every active GAMPAC member who attends the HOD meeting will be able to get a professional headshot photograph taken for free.

GAMPAC members will be able to have their photo taken at their convenience by Chris Savas (www.chrissavas.com) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 17 or from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday, October 18 at a temporary studio that will be set up next to the GAMPAC exhibit and near the main HOD meeting room.

As an added bonus, Dr. Barber says that GAMPAC will host a free and exclusive luncheon for its members at the Hyatt Regency Savannah at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 18 that will feature a talk by U.S. Sen. David Perdue.

Dr. Barber believes that, "GAMPAC is an easy and effective way for physicians to support candidates for political office in the state who want to enhance the practice environment in Georgia and who want to protect the patient-physician relationship."

And Dr. Barber notes that, "You can join GAMPAC at the membership level that suits your needs – whether that's the Chairman's Circle at \$2,500 or the Capitol Club at \$1,000 or the general membership level at \$250."

Contact Ryan Larosa at 678.303.9273 or rlarosa@mag.org or go to www.mag.org/organizations/gampac to join GAMPAC.

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Deadline for MAG medical student abstract competition is September 16...winners to be featured in MAG Journal

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) will hold a medical student abstract competition for MAG member students during its annual House of Delegates meeting, which will take place at the Hyatt Regency Savannah on October 17-18.

The competition will have four categories, including basic science/bench work, clinical research, public health, and case studies. One winner will be selected in each category, and the winning abstracts will be published in the *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia*.

The contestants will also have a chance to enter a “Best Pitch Competition,” whereby each student will have 45 seconds to give their best “pitch” to a panel of physician judges. The winner of this competition will be featured on MAG’s website.

The contest is open to every student in every class in every medical school in the state.

The deadline for the abstracts of 350 words or less is September 16.

Submissions are limited to one abstract per primary author.

Acceptance emails that address the poster requirements and other details will be distributed by the end of September.

Contestants must set up their poster exhibits between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Savannah on Saturday, October 17. The exhibition will be open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on October 17.

Contact Arianna Afshari at aafshari@mag.org with questions.

[Click for criteria, additional details](#)

[Click to register/submit abstract](#)

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MAG encouraging physicians to make plans to testify at health insurance reform meetings in Atlanta or Tifton

The Georgia Consumer and Provider Protection Act Study Committee has announced its meeting schedule, which includes 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Monday, September 16 at the State Capitol in Atlanta, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday October 26 at the Tifton-Tift Regional Health Systems Office in Tifton, and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Monday November 9 at the State Capitol. The committee will address a number of important health insurance issues – including rental networks and all-products clauses.

Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) President Manoj H. Shah, M.D., is a member of the committee, and he is encouraging physicians and practice staff in the state to attend the meetings.

Physicians who have an interest in testifying at one of the meetings should contact MAG Government Relations Director Marcus Downs at mardowns@mag.org.

A bill (S.B. 158) that was introduced during the 2015 state legislative session evolved into a study bill (S.R. 561) that led to the formation of the committee, which will develop recommendations for the General Assembly's to consider in 2016.

[Click for S.R. 561 details](#)

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MAG to host call on ICD-10 transition on September 8

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is encouraging MAG member physicians and their practice staff to register for a free town hall conference call that it will host at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8 that will address the upcoming ICD-10 transition.

The call will feature James Dunnick, M.D., who is a nationally-renowned ICD-10 expert. He will discuss what practices can expect when the transition goes into effect on October 1, how a practice can protect and preserve its cash flow, and what steps a practice that isn't prepared for the ICD-10 transition can take to minimize its risk and mitigate any negative effects.

The call will conclude with a Q&A session. The entire call is expected to last about 30 minutes. Once a participant completes the registration process, they will receive an email that contains the telephone number and code that they will need to participate in the call – which will be recorded and posted under "Breaking News" on www.mag.org on September 9.

The forum is being supported with a grant from Health Care Research, a subsidiary of Alliant Health Solutions.

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Recording of MAG call on chronic disease now online

A recording of a 30-minute town hall conference call that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) hosted on August 17 that addressed chronic disease prevention (e.g., diabetes and obesity) is now available online.

The call featured Jean O'Connor, J.D., Dr. P.H., who is the chronic disease prevention director for the Georgia Department of Public Health.

She discussed cost-effective and evidence-based strategies for reducing the burden of chronic disease; some of the performance reporting and incentives that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is using to improve the quality of care; variations across the state in hospitalizations and premature death by disease; and the role physicians can play to improve outcomes.

The forum was offered at no cost with a grant from Health Care Research, a subsidiary of Alliant Health Solutions.

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‘Top Docs’ show with leading med-mal attorney now online



A recording of a recent Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) ‘Top Docs Radio’ show that featured one of the state’s leading medical malpractice attorneys is now available online.

During his appearance on August 11, Daniel J. Huff, Esq. – pictured on the right above – discussed the steps that physicians can take to avoid medical malpractice lawsuits, as well as what they should do in the event they are sued for medical malpractice.

Huff is a founding partner of Huff, Powell & Bailey, LLC, an Atlanta-based firm that defends physicians, hospitals, product manufacturers, businesses, corporations, and other professionals in lawsuits and other proceedings.

He has written legal articles for the *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia* since 2009.

Contact Huff at 404.892.4022 or dhuff@huffpowellbailey.com.

MAG sponsors the ‘Top Docs’ program – which airs on the Business Radio-X Network – at 2:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

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'Narrow networks common with Obamacare insurance,' The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 26

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ICD-10 expert to appear on MAG's 'Top Docs' show

Nationally-renowned ICD-10 expert James Dunnick, M.D., will appear on the Medical Association of Georgia's (MAG) monthly 'Top Docs Radio' program on the Business Radio-X Network at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8.

He will discuss what practices can expect when the transition goes into effect on October 1, how a practice can protect and preserve its cash flow, and what steps a practice that isn't prepared for the ICD-10 transition can take to minimize its risk and mitigate any negative effects.

MAG sponsors the 'Top Docs' program at 2:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

[Click to listen to 'Top Docs Radio'](#)

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MAG practice management webinars now online

The recordings of the 'Practice Management...Front Office Success' webinars that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) hosted during the summer months are now available online for MAG members and their staff (member password required).

The series featured Elizabeth Woodcock, who is a nationally recognized practice management expert. It was supported with a grant from Health Care Research, a subsidiary of Alliant Health Solutions.

MAG members and their practice staff can contact Susan Moore with MAG at smoore@mag.org with questions.

[Click for 'Maximizing Patient Collections' webinar recording \(June 16\)](#)

[Click for 'Missed Appointments = Missed Opportunities' webinar recording \(July 20\)](#)

[Click for 'Front Office Success' webinar recording \(August 17\)](#)

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Former MAG president W. Scott Bohlke, M.D., rallying support for GPLA – next generation of physician leaders



I would like to appeal to you to join me in supporting the next generation of physician leaders in the state by making a contribution of \$100 or more to the MAG Foundation's Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy (GPLA) today. GPLA is training physician leaders who will enhance the medical profession and the health care system in Georgia. The year-long GPLA program enhances the participant's skill sets in three key areas, including advocacy and communications and conflict resolution. It also fosters relationships and networks within the medical profession.

I am proud to report that more than 80 GPLA graduates now serve in leadership roles at MAG and other state and local medical societies – including MAG's current president, Manoj Shah, M.D.

And with 16 students, the eighth – and largest – GPLA class is now underway.

I have personally pledged to support GPLA's 'Care...Give...Transform' campaign in 2015 with a donation of \$5,000. I would like to appeal to you to join me and make a tax-deductible donation to help us achieve our \$45,000 fundraising goal by the end of MAG's House of Delegates meeting in Savannah on October 18.

Given my experience, I am convinced that GPLA is an essential part of our effort to develop the physician leaders we need to protect and preserve the practice environment in the state. In fact, we should view it as a strategic investment in our future as physicians.

Finally, I hope that you will take a few moments to click on the link that is at the bottom of this page to watch a few brief video testimonials from some GPLA graduates who now serve as physician leaders.

Please contact Lori Cassity Murphy at lmurphy@mag.org or 678.303.9282 with any questions.

My sincere thanks for your consideration.

W. Scott Bohlke, M.D.
Member, MAG Foundation Board of Trustees
Former president, Medical Association of Georgia
Graduate, GPLA class of 2009

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Did you know? Georgia's medical marijuana registry

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* recently ran an article that addressed Georgia's new medical marijuana registry that said that...

- 162 physicians have registered
- 138 patients have registered
- About half of the patients who have registered are younger than 17 years old, while 11 percent are 18-to-24, 23 percent are 25-to-49, and 16 percent are 50 or older.
- The most common conditions that have been cited for treatment include seizures (59 percent), multiple sclerosis (19 percent), cancer (eight percent), mitochondrial disease (eight percent), and Crohn's disease (six percent).

The AJC cited the Georgia Department of Public Health as the source of the information.

[Click for DPH Low THC Oil FAQ](#)

[Click for DPH Low THC Oil Registry](#)

Editor's note: On August 26, the AJC ran an article that reported that the number of patients in the registry had increased to "nearly 200."

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Members can save time and money with MAG 401(k) plan

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is reminding its member physicians and their practices that they can save time and money and retain employees by participating in the MAG-sponsored 401(k) retirement plan that's available through the Atlanta Capital Group and Transamerica – which has grown to more than \$20 million.

"I have been able to save money and avoid a lot of hassles and spend more time with my patients by taking advantage of MAG's 401(k) plan," says Madalyn N. Davidoff, M.D. "MAG has always been the leading advocate for physicians in Georgia, but this program has really enhanced the MAG membership value proposition."

MAG members can contact Kevin Rainwater with the Atlanta Capital Group at 404.893.4100 or krainwater@atlantacapitalgroup.com for details.

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Sponsored message: MAG members can get \$100 discount for ‘Low Back Pain – Fresh Look’ medical/legal symposium

Mitchell S. Nudelman, M.D., J.D., is inviting MAG members to join him at a special medical/legal “Low Back Pain – A Fresh Look: With a Special Focus on Psychological Comorbidities & Patient Selection for Intervention” symposium that he will host at the State Bar of Georgia office (104 Marietta Street NW) in Atlanta on Thursday, October 1. Physicians can earn 6.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* for participating* in the symposium – and MAG members can receive a \$100 discount off the registration fee (\$225 net) by entering **MAG2015** in the “Promo Code” box.

The symposium will feature sessions on ‘Evidence Based Differential Diagnosis of Low Back Pain,’ ‘Understanding Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Pain & Some Unique Ethical Considerations,’ ‘Aggravation/Exacerbation of Pre-Existing Degenerative Disc Disease: A Challenging Legal Issue,’ ‘Psychological Aspects of Low Back Pain & Their Medical & Legal Implications,’ ‘Red Flags in Patient Selection: Increasing the Probability for Optimal Outcome After Surgical Intervention, including Implantable Devices,’ ‘Applying Pharmacy Management in Low Back Pain,’ and ‘Ethical Concerns With & Determining Payment for Experimental/Investigational Treatment Using Evidence Based Medicine.’

Click on the “Full Agenda” button for a complete program summary and a list of the distinguished faculty.

Dr. Nudelman says that, “Past attendees have enjoyed the unique experience of meeting other professionals and the open exchange of ideas among this diverse audience, including physicians, employers, risk managers, adjusters, and nurse case managers in addition to attorneys (plaintiff and defense), psychologists, and pharmacologists.”

The event will conclude with a networking reception that will allow attendees to “make some professional acquaintances and develop new business.”

[Click to register for symposium](#)

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Dr. Nudelman is board certified in family medicine and has been a diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine for more than 25 years. He has been a member of the Georgia Bar in good standing since 1991. He practices both administrative medicine and law. He is a fellow of the distinguished

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Fast Fact

“Georgia had the highest percentage of ‘narrow’ medical provider networks in the 2014 Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges, a new report shows...83 percent of Georgia plans having narrow networks...”

'Narrow networks common with Obamacare insurance,' The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 26

American College of Legal Medicine, and he is the chief medical officer of Medical Director Solutions, LLC, a medical peer review company that specializes in complex claims that he founded in 1998. Dr. Nudelman was the sole peer review physician to the Georgia State Board of Workers Compensation for more than a decade – and he has consulted on a wide range of cases involving medical care and other medical legal matters that often involve multiple medical specialties and complex medical facts.

*This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Physicians' Institute for Excellence in Medicine and Medical Director Solutions, LLC. The Physicians' Institute for Excellence in Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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MAG members can get 20% off for Health Connect South

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) is encouraging physicians in the state to register for Health Connect South's second annual event, which will take place at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16.

Health Connect South is “the preeminent organization dedicated to gathering the best and the brightest leaders, innovators, and decision makers in Georgia’s health ecosystem.”

It says that the event will include an “an exclusive mix of the Southeast's top decision makers, innovators, and our next generation of health leaders...” Health Connect South has placed attendance at last year’s event at more than 600.

The agenda features discussions “on the Ebola response and collaborations that took (and are still taking) place to orchestrate this remarkable multi-institutional effort...will also be featuring special pieces on cancer, health technology, and innovative research in health.”

The list of high-profile speakers includes former U.S. Health and Human Services Sec. Louis Sullivan, M.D, The Carter Center CEO Mary Ann Peters, and American Cancer Society Chief Medical Officer Otis Brawley, M.D.

Health Connect South sees the event as a “gathering point where the most progressive aspects of health advancement in the Southeast are shared, explored and created.”

Given MAG's role as a sponsor, MAG members can get a 20 percent discount off the \$699 registration fee by using promotional code MAG4HCS. The registration fee includes a VIP reception.

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GDC flags article on state efforts to limit patient drug costs

The Georgia Drug Card has flagged an article that appeared in The Pew Charitable Trusts *Stateline* report that says that, "As more expensive specialty drugs come on the market to treat some of the most serious chronic diseases, more states are stepping in to cushion the financial pain for patients who need medicine that can cost up to hundreds of thousands of dollars a year."

The Georgia Drug Card is also reminding physicians that their 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 print the Georgia Drug Card for free at www.GeorgiaDrugCard.com, they can request the Georgia Drug Card savings at any CVS/pharmacy in the state, or they can request a hard card by sending an email to John Cenerazzo at johnc@georgiadrugcard.com.

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New MAG members

MAG welcomed the following new members during August...

Robert L. Alexander, M.D., Griffin
Cecil F. Bennett, M.D., Peachtree City
Charles Jason Grodzin, M.D., Decatur
Richard Lowell Hengel, M.D., Atlanta
Edward M. Marchan, M.D., Atlanta
W. Mark Newton, M.D., Evans
Seth Adam Yellin, M.D., Marietta

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FDA says providers shouldn't use certain BD syringes

The Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency reports that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an alert that says that health care professionals should “not administer compounded or repackaged drugs that have been stored in 3 milliliter (ml) and 5ml syringes manufactured by Becton-Dickinson (BD) unless there is no suitable alternative available.”

The alert says that, “Preliminary information indicates that drugs stored in these syringes may lose potency over a period of time due to a possible interaction with the rubber stopper in the syringe.”

FDA adds that, “If you have been using products packaged in these syringes, be aware that using a substitute product may require a dosage adjustment in case the patient has been receiving a subpotent product, or adverse consequences could occur.”

FDA recommends that, “Hospital and pharmacy staff should check supply stocks and remove drug products that were filled by pharmacies or outsourcing facilities and stored in general purpose BD 3ml and 5ml syringes. These syringes are marked with the BD logo at the base of the syringe.”

And FDA stresses that, “This warning does not extend to products approved by FDA for marketing as pre-filled syringes, because as part of the approval process, FDA has determined that these products have been shown to maintain stability in the syringe container through the expiration date on the product.”

Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products by completing the form that is posted at www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report or calling 800.332.1088 to request a form and faxing it to 800.332.0178.

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MAG calling for support for bill to address EHR concerns

The Medical Association of Georgia is encouraging physicians to call their congressional leaders to support the “Flex IT 2 Act” (H.R. 3309), which is a bill that the American Medical Association (AMA) says “would provide much needed flexibility in the [Medicare/Medicaid EHR] ‘meaningful use’ program and enhance EHR to improve patient care and access to health information.”

AMA explains that, “The bill also addresses key interoperability challenges by ensuring certified EHR systems are capable of sending, receiving and seamlessly incorporating patient data.”

AMA says that, “If left unchanged, [the] MU Stage 3 [requirements] will lead to less time with patients, less innovation and costly penalties if physicians are unable to comply.”

Physicians should call 800.833.6354 to use AMA's automated phone system to contact their congressional leaders to urge them to support H.R. 3309.

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CMS promoting broadband map as EHR programs tool

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is promoting the 'National Broadband Map' (NBM), which is a "searchable and interactive tool that allows users to view broadband availability across every neighborhood in the United States."

CMS says, "The NBM is particularly helpful for providers in the (Medicare/Medicaid) EHR Incentive Programs that need to determine their broadband download speed for exclusion criteria. Providers can use the NBM to search, analyze, and map broadband availability in their area to determine if these exclusions apply."

According to CMS, EHR providers can...

- "Use the 'Summarize' tool, select 'County' as your geography, choose your corresponding state, and type in the name of your county. Then click the 'Summarize' button. The summarize results page will display full details of broadband availability for your county.
- Scroll down to the section titled 'Broadband Speed Test (Mbps)' and click the darker gold bar by the 'Home' location for the median broadband speed for housing units in your area (must be below 3Mbps for EHR broadband exclusions to apply).
- Scroll back to the top of the results page to print or export the broadband data and save it for your records."

CMS is also encouraging providers to "review the download speed, not the upload speed."

Send an email to SBDD@ntia.doc.gov with questions.

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CMS posts 2016 ICD-10-CM codes, unveils specialty-specific resources

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted a complete list of the “2016 ICD-10-CM valid codes” on its website.

CMS says the information will be “useful for physician offices and other providers who want to check to make sure that they are reporting all characters in a valid ICD-10-CM code.”

CMS adds that, “The codes are listed in tabular order (the order found in the ICD-10-CM code book). This list should assist providers who are unsure if additional characters are needed, such as the addition of a 7th character in order to arrive at a valid code.”

[Click for 2016 ICD-10-CM and GEMs](#)

CMS has also released a number of new specialty-specific ICD-10 resources that are part of its ‘ICD-10 Clinical Concepts Series.’

CMS says the guides include “Common ICD-10 codes and corresponding ICD-9 codes; Clinical documentation tips; Clinical scenarios; (and) Links to interactive cases studies, in-depth webinars.”

[Click for 'ICD-10 Clinical Concepts for Family Practice'](#)

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DPH addresses facility exemptions for vaccine protocol

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has released a memo from DPH Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D., that addresses the "Designation of Exempt Health Care Facilities for Purposes of Code Section 43-34-26.1, Vaccine Protocol Agreements."

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CMS to host public reporting, 'Physician Compare' webinars

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host three one-hour webinars that will address public reporting and the 'Physician Compare' website.

CMS says that, "Each webinar will provide stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions about public reporting on Physician Compare and this year's measure preview period."

The webinars are scheduled to take place on...

Tuesday, September 22 at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23 at 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 24 at 11 a.m.

CMS also stresses that "the sessions will [all] present the same information."

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AMA recruiting judges for Research Symposium

The American Medical Association (AMA) is looking physician volunteers to serve as judges for the 13th annual AMA Research Symposium for medical students, residents, fellows and international medical graduates. The event will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, November 13 at the Hilton Atlanta in conjunction with AMA's 2015 Interim Meeting. The judges will also be invited to attend a "poster-viewing" reception. Go to ama-assn.org/go/judges for details.

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Health care centers in Georgia receive ACA funds

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced that 28 health centers in Georgia have received a total of \$1,337,661 in Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding to recognize them for “providing high quality, comprehensive care.”

HHS explains the, “Health centers will use these funds to expand current quality improvement systems and infrastructure, and improve primary care service delivery in the communities they serve.”

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COPIC and MagMutual announce alliance

COPIC Insurance Company and MAG Mutual Insurance Company issued the following press release on August 7...

COPIC Insurance Company, Colorado's leading medical liability insurance provider, and MagMutual, the Southeast's largest medical professional liability insurer, are forming a new alliance to share industry knowledge and promote best practices. The arrangement is designed to reinforce a broader commitment to improve health care outcomes through patient safety and risk management education, and develop improved services and resources for the health care community.

"This decision will help us address the opportunities within the changing health care landscape," said Ted Clarke, M.D., Chairman and CEO of COPIC. "Both companies were founded by physicians and built on a similar vision to improve health care. MagMutual shares our goal of being a partner that does 'more' to support medical practitioners and their efforts to deliver the best care possible."

"MagMutual has a steadfast commitment to improving patient outcomes through safety," said Joseph S. Wilson Jr., M.D., chairman and CEO of MagMutual. "COPIC is recognized as an industry leader in patient safety and risk management education programs, and combining its expertise with our existing resources will only lead to better results. This alliance draws upon each company's strengths to enhance our roles in healthcare and the quality of support we provide."

Neil Morrell, president of MagMutual, and Steve Rubin, president of COPIC, jointly stated that the two companies together hope to be better able to improve the quality of medical care in the markets they serve as well as pursue new opportunities for continual product enhancement and growth while remaining highly competitive.

Under the terms of the agreement, both companies will invest in each other's success. MagMutual will acquire a 25 percent minority interest in COPIC, and COPIC will act as a reinsurer for a portion of MagMutual's written premium. Each company will retain its brand, leadership, and board of directors.

The agreement is subject to approval by the Colorado Division of Insurance and the Georgia Department of Insurance. In addition, the agreement is subject to the consent of the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice. Pending those approvals, as well as finalizing closing documents, the agreement is expected to be operational this fall.

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September 1, 2015

e-News from MAG

NEWS FROM THE LEADING VOICE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA



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News Briefs

CDC publishes new infant immunization, school vaccination reports

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published two key reports, including the 'National Immunization Survey (NIS) - Children (19-35 months)' and the '2014-15 School Year Vaccination Coverage Trend Report.'

[Click for 'National Immunization Survey \(NIS\) - Children \(19-35 months\)'](#)

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News Briefs

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Fast Fact

“Georgia had the highest percentage of ‘narrow’ medical provider networks in the 2014 Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges, a new report shows...83 percent of Georgia plans having narrow networks...”

'Narrow networks common with Obamacare insurance,' The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 26

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