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Celebrate Our Independence - Happy Fourth of July!

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, the AOMA office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. The office will reopen on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 8:00 am.



Enjoy the weekend and be safe.

Physicians Groups Unite against Senate Bill's Deep Cuts to Medicaid

As [reported](#) by AHCCCS last week, the [Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 \(BCRA\)](#) contains deep cuts to Arizona's Medicaid program with a potential impact of \$7.1 billion over the next ten years. Hundreds of thousands of covered lives, provider reimbursements, hospitals, and Arizona's economy would be negatively impacted.

AOMA signed on to a letter with the American Osteopathic Association, and united with the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), Arizona Medical Association, and many other physician associations speaking up in opposition specifically to the Medicaid reductions in BCRA. These proposed reductions disproportionately impact Arizona's program due to its lower costs compared to states with less efficient programs. Numerous other prominent groups including the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, et al. have voiced similar concerns.

Please contact Arizona's senators and weigh in on this critical policy issue:

Senator Flake: 602-840-1891 (Phoenix Office); 520-575-8633 (Tucson Office); 202-224-4521 (D.C. Office), email [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

Senator McCain: 602-952-2410 (Phoenix Office); (520) 670-6334 (Tucson Office); (202) 224-2235 (D.C. Office), email [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

State of Emergency: Opioid Epidemic

On June 5, 2017, Governor Doug Ducey signed an [emergency declaration](#) to address the growing number of opioid deaths in Arizona. The declaration gives the state the ability to coordinate public health efforts between state, local and private-sector partners and allows the state to utilize all of its public health resources, including by distributing naloxone throughout the community to help prevent drug overdose deaths. The declaration and enhanced surveillance advisory will provide for enhanced reporting of overdose deaths from doctors and hospitals.

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is responsible for coordinating the gathering of data under the enhanced surveillance advisory. The Health Emergency Operations Center was created to collect public health data in real time. Data to be collected includes:

- Opioid report highlights dangerous trend in overdose deaths
- Suspected opioid overdoses
- Suspected opioid deaths
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Naloxone doses administered in response to either condition
- Naloxone doses dispensed

Opioid Enhanced Surveillance Reporting is required by the following:

- Emergency Medical Systems
- Law Enforcement
- Providers
- Healthcare facilities
- Pharmacists
- Medical Examiners

View the ADHS Public Health Emergency Declaration and Enhanced Surveillance Advisory [here](#).

Have You Renewed Your AOMA Membership?

The deadline to renew your AOMA membership is TOMORROW June 30, 2017. Don't let your membership lapse!



Please click on the [Renew](#) button or call the AOMA office at (602) 266-6699 today!

AOMA 2017 Legislative Affairs Report Available

The [AOMA 2017 Legislative Affairs Report](#) is now available to AOMA members. The report provides important information about the 2017 legislative session, including substantive policy issues, such as opioids and surprise billing, and all of the newly enacted laws and how they will impact physicians and the healthcare system. Access to this comprehensive legislative [report](#) is exclusive to AOMA members and is one of the many benefits of membership.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Changes: Are You in Compliance?

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) is an important tool to reduce morbidity, mortality, misuse, and abuse related to prescription drugs, specifically opioids. The primary function of the PMP is to provide a central database of all prescriptions dispensed for Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances in Arizona.

NEW GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2017: All prescribers are required to obtain a patient utilization report from the PMP prior to prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine controlled substance. It is the prescriber's responsibility to understand the new law and the requirements before the mandate goes into effect beginning the later of October 1, 2017, or 60 days after the data has been integrated into the statewide health information exchange.

If you are unfamiliar with the components of the impending mandate, [download](#) the [PMP Compliance Checklist](#).

Integration is Available! Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Ready for EHRs

[Appriss Health](#), provider of the most comprehensive platform for substance use disorder in the U.S., announced it has recently signed an agreement with the Arizona Board of Pharmacy to enable integration of controlled substance prescription information into electronic health records (EHRs) and pharmacy management systems statewide. The solution, [PMP Gateway](#), can enable access to data, analytics, insight, tools and resources from prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) within care team workflows in real-time, at the point-of-care to improve patient safety and outcomes.

Arizona Board of Pharmacy [Press Release](#)

If you are interested in integrating with the PMP, please fill out the Integration Request Form: <https://pharmacypmp.az.gov/integration-request-form>

Gateway information: <https://apprisshealth.com/solutions/pmp-gateway/>

3rd Annual Flagstaff Osteopathic Medical Conference

Escape the heat and earn CME in the cool pines of Flagstaff. The 3rd Annual Flagstaff Osteopathic Medical Conference (FOMC) is Saturday, August 19, 2017 at Flagstaff Medical Center.

Proposed topics include psychiatry, diabetes, family medicine, geriatric/palliative care, and pediatrics. AOMA designates this conference for a maximum of 7.50 hours of AOA Category 1-A



CME credits. The Flagstaff Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.50 AMA PRA Category 1 credits.

3rd Annual FOMC
August 19, 2017

Cost is \$25 for AOMA Members and \$60 for Non members.
Register online at www.az-osteo.org/FOMC

Stream the New PBS Documentary on Women in Osteopathic Medicine

The Feminine Touch, a new documentary on the history of women in osteopathic medicine, is now available for free [online viewing](#). It was created by Florida's West Coast Public Broadcasting (WEDU) a PBS affiliate in Tampa.

The documentary is based on the book [The Feminine Touch: Women in Osteopathic Medicine](#), which was written by Thomas Quinn, DO, a professor at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Florida (LECOM-Bradenton).

You can help raise awareness of osteopathic medicine and its history by requesting that the documentary be played on [your local PBS station](#).

Help Save Lives - Immunize!

Misinformation about the effectiveness and safety of immunizations continues to circulate across the country. Personal belief exemptions for immunizations for school age children increased .5% in Arizona in 2016, putting our children - and the community as a whole - at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases. AOMA continues to work with community stakeholders to stress the importance of immunizations to protect everyone. To share this information with your patients, please [download](#) the [the Immunizations Protect Arizona's Kids](#) flyer. Vaccines save lives!

AOMA 37th Annual Fall Seminar

The Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association 37th Annual Fall Seminar will be held November 11 & 12, 2017 at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The theme of this year's event is Get Connected. AOMA anticipates offering 13.0 hours of AOA Category 1-A CME credit for this program. Application will also be filed for AAFP prescribed credits. Full agenda is pending.

Registration is now available at www.az-osteo.org/FallSeminar



**Engage in Patient Care
and Education**

FREE ONLINE CME: Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing

Safe and Effective Opioid Prescribing While Managing Acute and Chronic Pain is a free online CME to familiarize prescribers with current guidelines for opioid use and prescribing, as well as educate prescribers about non-opioid strategies for pain management.

Learning Objectives:

- Manage acute and chronic back pain

- Assess the functional effects of pain in patients.
- Appropriately utilize a range of therapeutic options when managing patients with chronic pain.
- Comply with current opioid risk-management practices, including the use of pain contracts and urine drug testing. Educate patients on the proper use, storage, and disposal of opioid medications.

Cost: FREE for Arizona Prescribers

Registration: <http://www.vlh.com/AZPrescribing/>

Supported by a grant through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. Developed in Partnership with Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse & Abuse Initiative, Arizona Department of Health Services, University of Arizona College of Public Health and University of Arizona College of Medicine.

CMS to Issue New Medicare Cards

Beginning in April 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) will begin issuing new Medicare cards with unique medicare beneficiary identifier (MBI) to replace the existing social security-based health insurance claim number (HICN). All Medicare cards will be replaced by April 2019. During the transition period providers can continue to bill using the HICN, but CMS encourages updating your billing system to prepare for this change.

Here are 5 steps you can take today to help your office or healthcare facility get ready:

1. Go to the CMS provider [website](#) and [sign-up](#) to for the weekly MLN Connects® newsletter.
2. Participate in the CMS [quarterly calls](#) to get more information. Schedule appears in the MLN Connects newsletter.
3. Verify all of your Medicare patients' addresses. If the addresses you have on file are different than the Medicare address you get on electronic eligibility transactions, ask your patients to contact [Social Security](#) and update their Medicare records.
4. Help your patients adjust to their new Medicare card. Hang posters in your offices to help spread the word
5. Test your system changes and work with your billing office staff to be sure your office is ready to use the new [MBI format](#).

To learn more, visit: cms.gov/Medicare/SSNRI/Providers/Providers.html

2017 AOA House of Delegates Resolutions

The resolutions that will be reviewed and acted on by the 2017 American Osteopathic Association (AOA) House of Delegates are [posted](#). Resolutions for the AOA House of Delegates had to be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the annual business meeting on Friday, July 23, 2017.

The AOA Delegates are reviewing all of the resolutions and welcome your comments so they can be discussed as part of the AOMA strategic planning in advance of the AOA House of Delegates meeting. Please send your feedback to Pete Wertheim, AOMA Executive Director at (602) 266-6699 or by email to pwertheim@az-osteo.org.

And the Winner Is...

Congratulations to James Schlichting, DO, a psychotherapist/neurologist practicing in Scottsdale. Dr. Schlichting updated his member profile on the AOMA website and was entered into the quarterly drawing for a \$100 VISA gift card.

Update your profile by September 30, 2017 for a chance to win! You could be our next winner.



Help prospective patients find you!



AOMA Members - Update Your Profile!

One of the benefits of AOMA membership is the **Find a Physician** public directory search. Make sure your practice information is up to date by logging in to your member profile on the AOMA website. When you do, prospective patients and potential referring physicians will be able to find you.

Need help updating your profile? Call the AOMA office at (602) 266-6699.

Do you know someone who is not an AOMA member... and should be?

Membership in AOMA is an affordable vehicle to keep abreast of national and local issues, protect your professional practice, enhance your specialized skills, further your career, and be a part of the future of osteopathic medicine in Arizona.

Refer a new AOMA member and receive at \$100 credit. Go to www.az-oste.org/Recruit Not an AOMA Member? Join today!

[Join AOMA](#)

Arizona Vaccine News



[Protect Arizona's Kids Immunization Flyer](#)

[AzDHS Immunization Program Website](#)

AOMA Calendar of Events - www.az-oste.org

- Cheers with Peers Tucson** - August 18, 2017
- 3rd Annual Flagstaff Osteopathic Medical Conference** - August 19, 2017
- AOMA 37th Annual Fall Seminar** - November 11 & 12, 2017
- AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting** - November 10, 2017
- AOMA House of Delegates** - November 11, 2017



Look sharp in your AOMA polo shirt! Available in the AOMA store. Visit www.az-oste.org to order today!



The AOMA D.O. Dashboard is published monthly. Direct your questions and comments to AOMA at communications@az-oste.org

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