

E-Update Feb 16, 2024



Medical leadership for mind, brain and body.

The weekly E-update is the tool by which MPA members can share information or announcements with each other. It is a member benefit and the mechanism by which MPA shares important notices regarding trends in psychiatry, pharmaceutical updates, information about your medical practice, advocacy, your opinions, and job opportunities. Members are encouraged to make the content their own. Please submit items for weekly publication by Thursday at 5pm. Your email addresses are protected by the DB and not for sale or use by any other entity besides the DB. Content should be pertinent to the practice of psychiatry or related medical information. Review the E-update highlighted titles and attachments for content and action steps. We value your input and attention to your specialty! Any item that appears in [royal blue](#) contains a link for detailed information on the topic. Questions regarding membership status are referred to our APA Membership Coordinator.



White Coat Day at State Capitol

MPA President, Dr. Philip Merideth represented MPA during Wednesday's White Coat Day at the Capitol. Other members advocating for patient safety included MPA Assembly Rep, Dr. Jon Jackson, MPA Membership Chairman, Dr. Mark Ladner, APAF Fellowship Chairwoman, Dr. Avani Patel and several MSH Residents. The morning began in the Rotunda as doctors were encouraged to mingle with their legislators and visit on important topics. Next physicians in attendance gathered in the Senate Gallery and were introduced by various Senators. After a return to the rotunda to sign

postcards that would be delivered to legislative offices, attendees met new House Speaker Jason White on the south steps of the Capitol for a photo. Photos of the event are shared within today's e-update. Thanks to everyone who took the opportunity to come to the Capitol and give of your time.

This Week at the Mississippi Legislature The seventh week of the 2024 Mississippi legislative session brought the 3rd hearing on mental health for joint House and Senate Public Health Committees. On Tuesday, Rep Sam Creekmore and Senator Hob Bryan, held a final joint hearing to receive updates from DMH Executive Director, Wendy Bailey and ask any questions surrounding processes around commitment, diversion from jail and responsibilities of the DMH and the CMHC's. Much attention has been given to the order of the steps within commitment and how



to make that process more efficient for families and patients. As we approach the first deadline of Feb 19th for the introduction of all bills, there should be a comprehensive bill coming from both Chambers as a follow-up to the three mental health focused hearings and how to make systems more manageable for all involved. Further context and bill numbers may be shared next week as the committee work fully begins to take on the thousands of bills to be considered. Additionally, the insurance lobby is sharing outrageous figures about how much \$\$\$ it will take to fully implement prior authorization. But wait, don't these companies already perform prior authorization on a daily basis now? How could they possibly say that it would cost \$126 million more? Or is that the actual figure that it will cost to pay true claims?? Lots of misinformation going around to try to kill the bill. MPA is in the trenches working to march this bill to the Governor's desk. March 5th is the statistically significant deadline for committees to report bills that will move forward in this 2024 session.

MPA's 2024 Legislative Priorities:

- Regulate the Prior Authorization Process for Physicians through the MS Dept of Insurance
- Advocate for Changes to Commitment Laws on Jail Diversion and Increased Community Treatment Options
- Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women 60 days Prior to Processing & Opportunity for Members to Vote on Expansion
- Update Future Testing Options for Citizens Around Foreign Substances and Street Drugs
- Make Kratom Schedule III
- Strengthen the Step Therapy/Fail First Protocol Override Statute
- Support a Change to CON regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Beds and Substance Use Disorder Beds in the State
- Add a Designated Child Psychiatrist to the Rural Physician Scholarship Program

- Broaden Testing Mechanisms for Street Drugs and Redefine Paraphernalia in MS to not Include Testing Strips for the Latest Abused Substances



- Maintaining a Physician Led Team Approach to Health Care

A full listing of Senate and House Committees can be found here:

[2024 Senate Committee Listing](#)

[2024 House Committee Listing](#)

Two Weeks Until the MPA/LPMA Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA

Make your reservation and register for the 2024 LPMA/MPA Spring meeting to be hosted in Baton Rouge, March 1 – 3. This is an opportunity to explore the latest developments in the field of psychiatry in a relaxed and welcoming environment at the recently renovated and updated Marriott Baton Rouge. Engage with experts on important topics such as Psychedelic Drugs in Substance Use Disorders, Perinatal Mental Health, Risk Management, Physician Assisted Suicide to name a few. We are excited to again partner with LPMAA and the Mid-Gulf Council for Child & Adolescent

Psychiatry. Take this opportunity to connect with colleagues and contribute to the ongoing progress of psychiatry. [Registration and booking your hotel room](#) are encouraged. **Deadline for hotel reservations is Feb 29th.** Please direct any questions to mpa39206@aol.com.

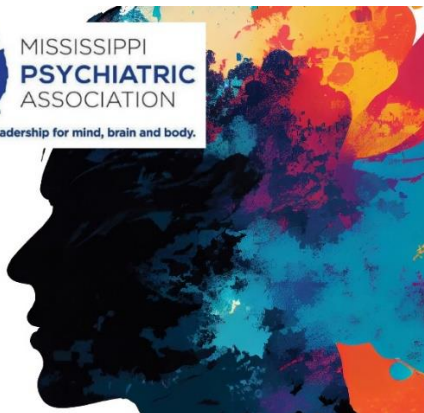


in conjunction with



2024 LPMA/MPA Spring Meeting

MARCH 1 - 3, 2024



Southern Psychiatric Association Meeting Dates for 2024

Mark your calendar now for the 2024 meeting with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association:
September 11 – 14, 2024 Westin Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT: EHR - DOCUMENTATION

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

1. No matter how good the system, what you get out of it will only be as good as what you put in. In other words, garbage in, garbage out. If you have not been thorough with your documentation in the past, your EHR system might make your record look “prettier” but it will not in and of itself create a record that supports good patient care and would be useful in your defense in the event of a claim or a lawsuit.
2. Concerns about patient safety and the use of electronic health records have been in the news for years. As the use of this technology has grown so have these concerns. In 2015 ECRI Institute listed errors associated with EHR use among its Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns and the Joint Commission issued a Sentinel Event Alert on the Safe Use of Health Information Technology.
3. Clinical decision support systems are designed to assist physicians by making recommendations about possible diagnoses from a set of signs and symptoms, provide alerts on possible drug interactions or critical lab values, or to question a physician’s medication dosage or other orders. Unfortunately, these systems often produce a large number of alerts, many of which are not relevant. In other instances, the alerts may be based on out-of-date information. While it is true that many alerts are not clinically relevant it is also true that there are some that are and therein lies the problem. Physicians can become so accustomed to seeing alerts that are not relevant that they tend to not notice when an alert is relevant which is known as alert fatigue.

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What's New at the APA

- **Dr. Marketa Wills, M.D., M.B.A.** was named the next CEO & Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Wills currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Johns Hopkins Health Plans and has a clinical practice at University of South Florida Student Health Services in Tampa, FL. She will assume the role of CEO on June 1, 2024. You can [read more about Dr. Wills and see the full CEO announcement here.](#)
- **One in three** Americans feel lonely every week according to a January Healthy Minds Monthly poll administered by APA & Morning Consult. Younger people were more likely to experience these feelings, with 30% of 18–34-year-olds saying they were lonely every day or several times a week. You can read the full poll results and [read more about loneliness here.](#)
- **Personal Finances** were a major source of anxiety for Americans heading into 2024, according to the latest Healthy Minds Monthly poll fielded by APA & Morning Consult. 44% of adults they say they experience the same amount of stress at the start of 2024 as they did a year earlier, while one in four said they experience more. You can [read the full results of the anxiety poll here.](#)

February Course of the Month – Food Addiction: A New Substance Use Disorder?

Approximately 14% of adults and 12% of children exhibit clinically significant levels of "food addiction" based on the *DSM-5* criteria for substance use disorders. However, "food addiction" is not currently included as a recognized or provisional diagnostic category in the *DSM-5*. This course will consider the validity of "food addiction," review evidence of excessive food intake and what it can lead to, discuss the clinical relevance, and more.

[Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

Registration for APA Annual Meeting Open

Join APA on **Saturday, May 4, through Wednesday, May 8**, for sessions, courses, and more in New York City that will leave you feeling inspired and energized.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

NEW At the Annual Meeting: Mind Games Masters!

New for the 2024 Annual Meeting! A three-part educational experience that allows psychiatrists to assess their knowledge and learn more about five subspecialties in an engaging, fun, and competitive format. Any psychiatrist in the U.S. (ACGME-accredited) or Canada may participate. Registration for this Paid Course is available as an add-on in the registration platform when you [register for the in-person Annual Meeting](#). You can [learn more about Mind Games Masters and register here](#).

Contact Your Representative to Prevent Cuts to Physician Reimbursement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a 3.4% reduction in Medicare's physician payments for 2024. This cut is devastating to physician practices and the patients they care for, and could necessitate reduced staffing and office closures, disproportionately harming rural and underserved communities. **Please urge Congress to prevent these devastating cuts from going into effect by cosponsoring the Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023 (H.R.6683).** This bipartisan bill would completely eliminate the 3.4% physician pay cut expected to take effect on January 1. Learn more and [compose a message to your representative in Congress here](#).

@theAPA Delirium Update 2024 Promotion:

Join us at APA Headquarters on **Friday, March 8** for the next **@theAPA Educational Series** event. This immersive learning experience offers an in-depth exploration of Delirium detection, prevention, and treatment. [Secure your spot today!](#)