

E-Update Feb 23, 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.



This Week at the Mississippi

Legislature The eighth week of the 2024 Mississippi legislative session brought Medicaid expansion to the forefront of focus. Two separate hearings occurred that allowed for testimony which covered a cross section of points both pro and con on the subject. This is the first session that the Legislature is truly looking at this topic and doing a deep dive by holding hearings that are well-attended and informative. The deadline for bills to be introduced was Monday and committees will be working until

March 5th on the deadline for committees to report bills that will move forward in this 2024 session. MPA is asking for your input on [HB 1644](#). It will deal directly with the commitment process. Please review the underlined language and share your feedback with the subject line HB 1644 to mpa39206@aol.com. Please make every effort to share you feedback by end of day on Monday, Feb 26th.

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](#)

One 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 Monday, Feb 26th.** Please direct any questions to mpa39206@aol.com.

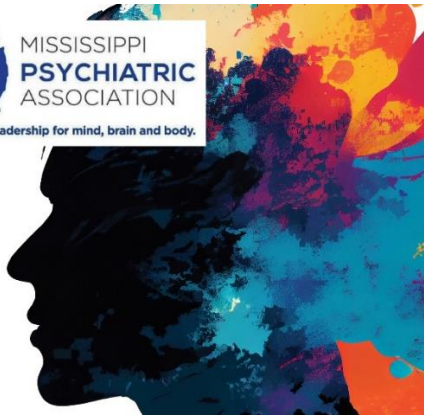


in
conjunction
with



2024 LPMA/MPA Spring Meeting

MARCH 1 - 3, 2024



February 2024 APA Advocacy Update

The last few months have seen significant movement across a broad array of issues. Learn more by reading the full [February 2024 Advocacy Update](#).

New APA Webinar on Clozapine REMS

On January 17, APA's Division of Advocacy, Policy, and Practice Advancement coordinated with the SMI advisor to host a webinar that provided updates on Clozapine REMS. [Click here to read more](#).

CMS Shortens Prior Authorization Times

In its final rule, [Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes Final Rule \(CMS-0057-F\)](#), CMS will require payers of Medicare Advantage (MA) and Medicare Advantage/Medicare Part D (MA-PD) plans, state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) fee-for-service (FFS) programs, Medicaid managed care plans and CHIP managed care entities ("impacted payers") to send prior authorization decisions within 72 hours for expedited (i.e., urgent) requests and seven calendar days for standard (i.e., non-urgent) requests. The rule also adds a new measure, titled "Electronic Prior Authorization," to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) objective for the MIPS Promoting Interoperability performance category and the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program. [Click here to read more](#).

SAMHSA Finalizes Important Changes to Opioid Use Treatment

In its final rule, [Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#), SAMHSA makes sweeping changes to Outpatient Treatment Programs (OTP) to reduce the burden on physicians while creating a patient-centered approach to care. The final rule makes the alignment needed to remove mention of the data 2000 waiver that prescribers previously needed in order to prescribe buprenorphine in order to treat an individual with opioid use disorder. Moreover, the rule removes the previously problematic regulation that required a one-year history of opioid addiction before admission into an OTP, leaving many without a place of treatment when ready to enter care. Another area that was finalized that APA advocated for, was initiation of buprenorphine at an OTP, by an OTP practitioner, via audio-only or audiovisual telehealth technology if an adequate evaluation of the patient could happen. [Click here to read more](#).

APA Meets with CMS to Discuss Telehealth Payment Parity and Support for Virtual Supervision

APA recently met with CMS on two occasions requesting CMS make permanent telehealth flexibilities currently in place. APA joined 11 organizations on a call with CMS on January 29, 2024. Speakers from APA, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Neurology, and the American Geriatrics Society, voiced support for payment parity for telehealth services, citing this as a “top priority for all our organizations to ensure that physician practices can continue providing vital care via telemedicine in 2025 and beyond.” [Click here to read more.](#)

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Cuts

On January 17, APA joined the American Medical Association and other medical organizations in a letter urging House and Senate leadership to reverse the 3.37 percent Medicare physician payment cuts that took effect on January 1, 2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

Maternal Mental Health

On January 17, APA joined a letter of support urging the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee to include the [PREEMIE Reauthorization Act](#) and the [Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act](#) in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bill. The PREEMIE Reauthorization Act would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish an interagency work group to improve the coordination of programs to prevent preterm birth, infant mortality, and related adverse effects. [Click here to read more.](#)

Title VII and Title VIII HRSA Funding

On January 29, APA joined the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition’s letter of support urging the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the highest level of funding possible for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for FY2024. [Click here to read more.](#)

NIDA Funding

On January 29, APA [joined a letter](#) to the Senate Chair and Ranking Member of the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee requesting that Congress oppose the addition of language prohibiting the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) from funding any research related to harm reductions in the FY24 LHHS Appropriations bill. [Click here to read more.](#)

APA State Government Affairs Is Here to Help

State legislatures across the country are convening new sessions. APA State Government Affairs provides assistance to District Branches/State Associations on state legislative and regulatory affairs, offering model legislation, tracking legislation, providing guidance on best lobbying practices, offering advocacy training, and more. To find out when your state legislature goes into session, [check out this 2024 State Legislative Session Calendar](#). For more information on how APA can team with your DB/SA, [please contact advocacy@psych.org](mailto:advocacy@psych.org).

APA Testifies Against Psychologists Prescribing Bills in Hawaii and Washington

In coordination with the Hawaii and Washington district branches, Dr. Levounis testified in opposition to bills related to psychologists prescribing this January. In Washington state, SB 6144 would allow psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications to patients and order any necessary laboratory tests or diagnostic examinations. The district branch mobilized its membership and partners to testify against the bill and, due to the volume of opposition, the bill has officially been defeated for the year. [Click here to read more.](#)

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: FORENSIC PRACTICE

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

1. The individual hiring you should clearly define the psychiatrist's role and the type of evaluation being requested. It is preferable that assignments be in writing. However, since the written request may be subject to discovery, many attorneys will send only a cursory retention letter. If necessary, get the information needed verbally.
2. Prior to performing a forensic examination, you should clarify your role with the evaluatee and document this. The person being examined must clearly understand that you are not his or her “doctor” and that you have been retained solely to evaluate and give an opinion. In nearly all cases you will not continue to follow the person evaluated, and that fact must be made clear to all parties. In rare cases you will be asked to perform a second or follow-up evaluation.
3. While there is no psychiatrist-patient relationship established between the forensic psychiatrist evaluator and the evaluatee, this does not mean that you cannot be sued or reported to the state medical board. If harm is alleged because of an examination, state law may allow you to be sued on the theory of ordinary negligence or medical malpractice. To avoid the appearance that a psychiatrist-patient relationship has been established, do not accept an assignment directly from an evaluatee.

The content of this article (or booklet or newsletter) (“Content”) is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, medical, or regulatory advice. Always seek the advice of your attorney, physician, or other appropriate professional regarding the Content. Never disregard professional legal advice or delay in seeking it because of the Content. The information is intended, but not promised or guaranteed, to be current, complete, or up to date.

©2018 Professional Risk Management Services (PRMS). All rights reserved.

EXCEPTIONAL MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE FOR PSYCHIATRISTS

LEARN MORE >



PRMS

Manager of The Psychiatrists' Program
Medical Professional Liability Insurance for Psychiatrists
1-800-245-3333

Email: TheProgram@prms.com

Visit: PRMS.com Twitter: [Twitter.com/PRMS](https://twitter.com/PRMS)

Facebook: Facebook.com/PRMSprograms

LinkedIn: LinkedIn.com/company/PRMSprograms

X Accounts of Interest Main account: [@APAPsychiatric](https://twitter.com/APAPsychiatric)

- Healthy Minds: [@APAHealthyMinds](https://twitter.com/APAHealthyMinds)
- MPA Main account: [@MSPsychiatrist](https://twitter.com/MSPsychiatrist)

Facebook Pages of Interest

- Main account: [American Psychiatric Association](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanPsychiatricAssociation)
- Healthy Minds: [APA Healthy Minds](https://www.facebook.com/APAHealthyMinds)
- MPA Main Account: [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](https://www.facebook.com/MississippiPsychiatricAssociation)

LinkedIn

- [American Psychiatric Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/american-psychiatric-association)
- [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mississippi-psychiatric-association)

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.](#)

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!](#)