

# IMAges NEWSLETTER



Last Call for IMA  
House of Delegates  
Resolutions!



Deadline 8/20/21



## IMA Virtual Town hall with Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL)

On Tuesday, August 24 at 6:30 PM, the IMA has arranged for a virtual town hall with Nicki Chopski from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL). Chopski is also the new executive official in charge of staffing the Board of Medicine along with her duties as Section Chief of the Health Division. As many of you know, the Board of Medicine changed from a self-governing agency, to a branch of the newly formed DOPL.

This town hall is an opportunity for IMA members to provide

direct feedback to DOPL about the Board of Medicine and other licensing related topics. Some of the pertinent topics will be an overview of the new DOPL structure, the Physician Recovery Network, and proposed legislation that would have allowed out of state providers to practice telehealth in Idaho, without an Idaho license.

Visit [bit.ly/DOPLtownhall](https://bit.ly/DOPLtownhall) to register! After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the virtual meeting.

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# IMA Annual Meeting: COVID-19 safety measures and last chance for hotel room block code!

As of Aug. 9, the Annual Meeting Committee of the IMA Board of Trustees has issued new event guidance\*, with the safety and health of all meeting participants as our top priority. The 2021 IMA Annual Meeting will be an in-person event unless local public health emergencies require us to do otherwise. Therefore, the following safety measures will be in place to keep everyone healthy, in addition to following local health district and public health guidance. All conference attendees are required to:

1. Wear a mask during all events,
2. Maintain a social distance of at least 3 feet from each other when possible, and
3. Be vaccinated.

IMA remains dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Idahoans and our attendees. If you have any specific questions about these safety measures or the meeting, please let us know. \*This information is subject to change.

**On Aug. 30, the IMA discounted room block code for Sun Valley Resort will expire.** We strongly encourage you to make your reservations for the 2021 IMA Annual Meeting as soon as possible to take advantage of our group rate. Please check your emails from IMA to look for the discount code or contact us at [membership@idmed.org](mailto:membership@idmed.org). If you have not already, register for Annual Meeting at [idmed.org](http://idmed.org), the meeting will take place on **Oct. 1-3, 2021!**

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## Last Call for IMA House of Delegates Resolutions

We urge you to submit your House of Delegate resolutions to the IMA office as soon as possible. These resolutions will be proposed to the HOD at the 2021 IMA Annual Meeting to set IMA policy for 2022. The deadline for first posting inclusion is **August 20, 2021**, please submit resolutions to [Rebecca@idmed.org](mailto:Rebecca@idmed.org).

If you need assistance drafting a resolution, please contact IMA staff and we will make every effort to format and finalize these resolutions for inclusion in the first posting.

When drafting resolutions for submission, please give close attention to the following:

- The title of the resolution should appropriately reflect the action for which it calls.
- Information contained in the resolution should be checked for accuracy.
- The "Resolved" clauses should be able to stand alone since the House adopts only the final "Resolved" clauses and the "Whereas" statements do not appear in the final record.
- Fiscal notes should be added when appropriate and should set forth the estimated cost, if any, of the policy, program, or action proposed by the resolution.

Please use the following resolution formatting template when writing your resolution: [bit.ly/ResolutionTemplate](https://bit.ly/ResolutionTemplate)

IMA staff can assist sponsors with the development of fiscal information, but requests of this nature should be forwarded in advance of the deadline for submission.



# Is it time for a change?

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## Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP) and Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) grants available

The Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP) and Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) applications have been released and are available on the Idaho Health and Welfare website at: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/rural-health-and-underserved-areas/loan-repayment-and-grants>

Applications must be received electronically via KeySurvey on or before **Aug. 30, 2021, 5:00 PM MST**. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered. Emailed, faxed, and mailed/delivered applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Applicants will receive verification of receipt of the application within one week and notified of application status by Oct. 30, 2021 via email listed on application. Questions? Email [ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov)

### **Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP)**

RPIP provides loan repayment for qualifying physicians serving Health Professional Shortage Areas in Idaho. The program is focused on physicians providing primary care medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. RPIP is funded by fees assessed to physicians attending the University of Washington and University of Utah medical schools in state-supported seats. Physicians may receive a maximum of \$100,000 over a four-year period toward their academic debt. Preference is given to eligible physicians who paid into the RPIP fund, however, funding is not limited to these candidates. RPIP award decisions are made by the Health Care Access and Physician Incentive Grant Review Board.

### **Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP)**

(RHCAP) exists to assist rural and underserved Idaho communities in improving access to primary medical and dental health care. RHCAP awards are limited to a maximum of \$35,000 for a one-year funding cycle. Proposed projects are required to address needs in areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUA). Applicants may submit grant proposals that improve access to primary care and/or dental health services in any of the three assistance categories (Idaho Code 39-5906), including, community development, telehealth, and other (such as recruitment and retention).



# Free X-Waiver Training

## ECHO IDAHO

Monday, September 20, 2021  
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. PT / 12:30 - 5 p.m. MT



University of Idaho  
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Learn about prescribing medications for opioid use disorder from experts in Idaho.

*Attend virtually or in-person!*



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- COVID-19 Safety for Post-Acute & Long-Term Care
- Hepatitis C
- Opioids, Pain & Substance Use Disorders
- Pediatric Behavioral Health

[uidaho.edu/echo](http://uidaho.edu/echo)

## Free counseling for IMA members statewide

In conjunction with the IMA Foundation, Ada County Medical Society (ACMS) continues to make available 3 free confidential counseling sessions through its Physician Vitality Program to Idaho licensed IMA members statewide. This is intended to provide immediate access to mental health professionals due to ongoing challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic. This resource has been expanded to all IMA members until January 31, 2022. The following providers are allowed up to 3 appointments during this temporary eligibility expansion:

- All currently licensed physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners practicing anywhere in Idaho if they are an Idaho Medical Association member.
- All currently licensed physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners practicing in Ada/Elmore Counties who are NOT ACMS members.

These appointments are made directly with the contracted therapists listed on the ACMS website and are completely confidential and no diagnosis is made. ACMS and IMA staff never find out the names of those utilizing the service, only broad demographics are reported. For more information and to find the list of contract therapists available by telehealth and in person in Ada, Canyon and Kootenai Counties, visit [www.adamedicalsociety.org/Physician-Vitality](http://www.adamedicalsociety.org/Physician-Vitality) or call/text 415-787-2267 anonymously.

## IMA discounted 2022 medical coding books, order yours today!

The Idaho Medical Association is pleased to offer substantial discounts on resource materials for AMA and Optum360° books for your office. Pre-order your CPT®, HCPCS, ICD-10 and other resource materials today! The discounted Coder's Bundle includes the 2022 CPT Professional Edition and the 2022 ICD-10-CM manual for one low price.

Most books can be ordered in electronic format and will become available on average 6-8 weeks prior to the hard copy titles being shipped! An order form with the most popular choices is available at [www.idmed.org](http://www.idmed.org) or review the 2022 Essential Reference Guide for your convenience. Contact Rebecca ([rebecca@idmed.org](mailto:rebecca@idmed.org)) at the IMA with any questions or call (208) 344-7888.

# AMA comments on federal surprise billing implementation

As many physicians know, last December Congress passed the No Surprises Act which was attached to the fiscal 2021 spending bill. The AMA was mostly supportive of the legislation which proposed various provisions addressing surprise medical billing. Most importantly to physicians, the bill adopted an Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process as opposed to benchmark rate setting. However, the details will be critical to the success of this law and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took the first step through a draft rule proposed in July with the final rule due later this year as the law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

A part of the law that addresses surprise billing is the advanced explanation of benefits (AEOB) which the health plan is responsible for providing to the patient. However, the physician must provide a good faith estimate (GFE) to the health plan within one business day if care is scheduled three to ten days in advance, or three business days if care is scheduled more than ten days in advance. The AMA urged HHS to limit the requirements of GFE to information that is easily and quickly accessible to the physician and their staff. The AMA also requested that in-network physicians be exempt from submitting estimates of charges to patients and to instead provide just the type of services the patient will receive.

To read more of the AMA's comments on the draft rule, you can view the full letter at [bit.ly/AMAcomments](https://bit.ly/AMAcomments). There will be much more to come in 2021 on rules related to the implementation of the No Surprises Act. One major piece missing from the current rule that HHS is still developing is the IDR process. This structure will be vital to ensuring that disputed payments between health plans and physicians are fair and equitable. Another question that is unique to Idaho is how these patient notifications will interface with the Idaho Patient Act, which went into full effect on July 1, 2021. IMA continues to seek to lessen the burdens in that state law and has extensive resources on compliance provided at [idmed.org](https://idmed.org).

Stay tuned for future updates on the No Surprises Act from AMA and IMA and please feel free to reach out to IMA Director of Government Affairs Jamie Neill ([jamie@idmed.org](mailto:jamie@idmed.org)) with feedback and questions.

*Always there. It's our policy.*



# THEY GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND

"What matters most to me is the support PI provides. They're there for you and they are always responsive. We need this so we can keep giving great patient care!"

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# Medical Practice Opportunities

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## Family Physician Provider Opportunity with Primary Health Medical Group

Established primary care group in Boise, Idaho is seeking a board certified/eligible family physician to work in APPOINTMENT-BASED FAMILY PRACTICE clinics in Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Kuna or Caldwell, Idaho.

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Call for this appointment based position is 1:30 and is only phone calls. Hospitalist coverage is provided. We have a nurse triage service that handles most of our patient calls.

Boise/Caldwell offers a complete complement of sub-specialties for physician support and a very competitive compensation package. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at [becky.nelson@primaryhealth.com](mailto:becky.nelson@primaryhealth.com).

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**To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement, please contact: Amika Empey, Director of Communications at 208-344-7888 or by email [amika@idmed.org](mailto:amika@idmed.org).**



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# Calendar of Events

**August 18, 2021**

IMA Education Webinar:

**Challenges and Changes - Most Commonly Used Modifiers - Clinic and Hospital. Gill Compliance Solutions, Nicole Benson (1 CEU)**  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

**August 24, 2021**

**IMA Virtual Town hall with Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 6:30 pm (MT)

Register at [bit.ly/DOPLtownhall](https://bit.ly/DOPLtownhall)

Additional information and registration forms for webinars are available at [www.idmed.org](http://www.idmed.org)

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