

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays!

IMA office closed
half-day on Dec. 23
and Dec. 24 - Jan. 2



Omicron variant in Idaho

On Dec. 10, Central District Health (CDH) confirmed the state of Idaho's first COVID-19 case with the Omicron variant. The variant was confirmed in a clinical lab sample from an Ada County resident who recently reported out of state travel. The resident is over the age of 50 and experienced very mild symptoms, likely due to being fully vaccinated.

"It's important for people to realize that this new and highly transmissible variant has now been detected in Idaho, and many areas across the US. Many Idahoans regularly travel this time of year, and we need to

remember to continue to take precautions, including receiving your vaccine or vaccine booster if you have not done so already," said Lindsay Haskell, Communicable Disease Control Manager for CDH.

The Omicron variant is spreading rapidly and has now been detected in 63 countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) published an overview of the variant which indicates more data is needed to know the threat it poses, but limited evidence seems to indicate Omicron has a growth advantage over Delta. View the overview at: bit.ly/OmicronOverview

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Congress moves to tackle Medicare physician pay cliff

Following months of fierce advocacy led by the American Medical Association (AMA) and other physician organizations, Congress acted this week to address the combined 9.75% in Medicare physician payment cuts, which amounted to a physician payment cliff and were set to take effect Jan. 1, 2022. President Biden is expected to sign the bill into law.

Highlights of the physician-payment provisions include:

- A delay in resuming the 2% Medicare sequester for three months (Jan. 1–March 31, 2022), followed by a reduction to 1% for three months (April 1–June 30, 2022).
- A one-year increase in the Medicare physician payment schedule of 3%, which is 0.75% less than the conversion factor boost provided for 2021.
- A one-year delay in the cuts to the clinical laboratory payment schedule.
- A one-year delay in the Medicare radiation oncology demonstration.
- Prevents the 4% Medicare pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) cut for 2022

While the overall legislation passed on a mostly party line vote due to provisions related to the debt-ceiling, the Idaho delegation had been heavily engaged in advancing this solution. Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo (the top Republican on the Finance Committee) and his staff were chief architects of the physician payment provisions while Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson cosponsored legislation and signed a letter to House leadership urging a solution. The IMA looks forward to working with the Idaho delegation on a long term solution to Medicare payment provisions.

2022 IMA Education Webinar Series

The 2022 IMA Education Webinar schedule is now listed at [idmed.org](https://www.idmed.org)! Registration is now open by email, snail mail or fax with online registration available on Jan. 3.

New This Year: Please note payment must accompany registration - \$50 for initial participant and \$35 per additional person per CEU Certificate; \$50 for additional participants for the 2 Hour/ December Webinar.

The next IMA webinar: Challenges and Changes: Inpatient & Outpatient E/M Rules – 2021 vs. 1995/1997 (1 CEU), Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 12:15 – 1:15 pm (MT). Register today to join IMA Reimbursement Consultant Jana Weis, DipCom, CPC, Principal with Gill Compliance Solutions. Don't miss this valuable and informative webinar! This webinar will be presented via Zoom, dial-in instructions as well as any presentation materials will be emailed to you the day before the webinar. Questions? Contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org.



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IDID/IPAID Board Members (not all pictured)



We are an organization of independent physicians with over 600 providers from Mountain Home to Weiser. We own our practices, so we are free to join our patients in choosing their best health care option. We are committed in helping providers remain or regain their independence. We would love to expand our presence throughout the state so if you are interested please give us a call.

To learn more visit our website: www.independentdocsid.com or call: (208) 375-3201

Hospital and physician groups file lawsuit over No Surprises Act final rules that jeopardize patient access to care

On Dec. 9, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and American Medical Association (AMA), representing hospitals, health systems, and physicians, sued the federal government over the misguided implementation of the federal surprise billing law. The associations are joined in the suit by plaintiffs including Renown Health, UMass Memorial Health and two physicians based in North Carolina.

The lawsuit challenges a narrow but critical provision of a rule issued on Sept. 30, 2021, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies. The provision being challenged ignores requirements specified in the No Surprises Act and would result in reduced access to care for patients. The rule and this flawed provision are set to take effect Jan. 1, 2022.

The AHA and AMA strongly support protecting patients from unanticipated medical bills and were instrumental in passing the landmark No Surprises Act to protect patients from billing disputes between providers and commercial health insurers.

The legal challenge became necessary because the federal regulators' interpretation upends the careful compromise Congress deliberately chose for resolving billing disputes. According to the lawsuit, the new rule places a heavy thumb on the scale of an independent dispute resolution process, unfairly benefiting commercial health insurance companies. The skewed process will ultimately reduce access to care by discouraging meaningful contracting negotiations, reducing provider networks, and encouraging unsustainable compensation for teaching hospitals, physician practices, and other providers that significantly benefit patients and communities.



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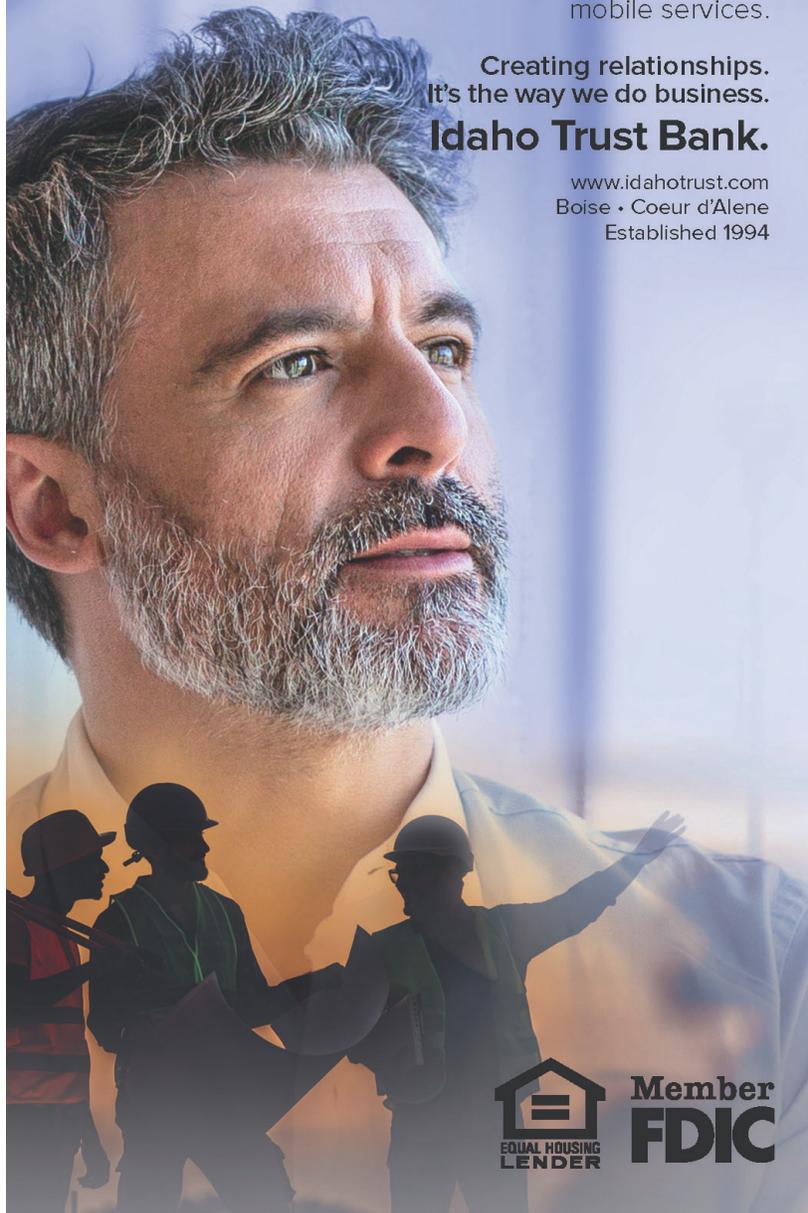
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We understand what it takes to make smart financial decisions in today's world. We have the vision to help your business grow and put your mind at ease. We offer a full range of customized lending, deposit, online and mobile services.

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Congratulations to the 2021 IMA Foundation Program Award winners!

In October, the Idaho Medical Association Foundation announced it would be making awards to support Idaho medical education and residency training as well as to support other activities to recruit and encourage physicians to practice in Idaho. The IMA Foundation is a 501(c)3 arm of the Idaho Medical Association.

The awards were based on the following criteria:

1. **Background:** Adequate experience, knowledge, and qualifications to perform in accordance with Foundation goals
2. **Commitment to Idaho:** Demonstrated commitment to Idaho, including years in the state, where headquartered and mission specific to Idaho
3. **Commitment to Underserved:** The extent to which the program focuses on bringing services and solutions to Idaho's rural and/or medically underserved populations
4. **Budget:** The extent to which the budget and justification align with Foundation goals
5. **Scope of Proposal:** The extent to which the scope of the proposal fulfills Foundation goals, meets an Idaho healthcare need, and does so in a fiscally sound manner

On behalf of IMA Foundation President Keith Davis, MD and the members of the IMA Foundation Board, congratulations to the following award winners:

- Ada County Medical Society
- FMRI Boise
- FMRI Nampa
- FMRI Magic Valley Rural Program
- Idaho WWAMI
- ISU Family Medicine Residency
- Kootenai Family Medicine Residency
- University of Utah Department of Psychiatry, ISU RTT
- UW Boise Psychiatry

New codes for 2022: Remote Therapeutic Monitoring

By IMA Reimbursement Consultant Nicole Benson BA, CPC, CPMA, Gill Compliance

The CPT editorial panel has continued to embrace innovative ways to manage patient care outside traditional face-to-face encounters. Remote Therapeutic Monitoring (RTM) codes were designed for non-physiologic elements. CPT recognized the Remote Physiologic Monitoring (RPM) codes have limited the scope of devices and providers who could bill the service. The development of these codes were approved based on two specific applications. First, a Bluetooth device (digital therapeutic) which monitored inhalation therapy. The device provides ‘real-time’ dosing based on the patient symptoms. Similar to the RPM family of codes, data from the patient is continually sent to the provider for analysis. The second application monitored a patient’s musculoskeletal system providing real-time physical therapy activity being monitored by the device. Data is also sent to the clinician to monitor progress. No different than RPM, devices used for RTM must meet the FDA’s definition of a medical device. Yet, patient self-reported data can be collected and transmitted via software as a medical device in addition to standalone peripheral devices. This family of codes is set for expansion to accommodate additional systems in 2023 as new technology is developed.

Physicians, qualified healthcare professionals, and other healthcare professionals can bill and order the RTM series of codes. This would include physical/occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, and other providers that can bill services within the medicine section of CPT.

CPT Codes:

- **98975** - Initial Set-up and Patient Education: Remote therapeutic monitoring (e.g., respiratory system status, musculoskeletal system status, therapy adherence, therapy response); initial set-up and patient education on use of equipment
- **98976** - Supply of Device for Monitoring Respiratory System: Remote therapeutic monitoring (e.g., respiratory system status, musculoskeletal system status, therapy adherence, therapy response); device(s) supply with scheduled (e.g., daily) recording(s) and/or programmed alert(s) transmission to monitor respiratory system, each 30 days
- **98977** - Supply of Device for Monitoring Musculoskeletal System: Remote therapeutic monitoring (e.g., respiratory system status, musculoskeletal system status, therapy adherence, therapy response); device(s) supply with scheduled (e.g., daily) recording(s) and/or programmed alert(s) transmission to monitor musculoskeletal system, each 30 days
- **98980** - Monitoring/Treatment Management Services, first 20 minutes: therapeutic monitoring treatment management services, physician/ other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring at least one interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the calendar month; first 20 minutes
- **98981** - Monitoring/Treatment Management Services, each additional 20 minutes: therapeutic monitoring treatment management services, physician/other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring at least one interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the calendar month; each additional 20 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

HHS extends the Provider Relief Fund reporting period

The Provider Relief Fund reporting period 1 portal will be reopened from 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on December 13, 2021 through **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Dec. 20, 2021**. During this time, PRF recipients may register, request corrections, and/or submit their report on PRF payments received prior to June 30, 2020. [This one week will be the final opportunity for providers to report on Reporting Period 1 payments.](#) Providers who submitted their reports before Nov. 30, 2021 may request to have their report reopened for revisions by contacting the Provider Support Line (866-569-3522). All reports must be finalized and submitted before Dec. 20, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET to be compliant with the terms and conditions of the PRF program. Access the PRF reporting portal at <https://prfreporting.hrsa.gov/s/>

Medical Practice Opportunities

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.

SIGNING BONUS MAY BE AVAILABLE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP MAY BE AVAILABLE

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.

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.



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Calendar of Events

December 21, 2021

Fundraiser Reception for Governor Brad Little

December 21, 2021, 4:-00 – 6:00 pm (MT), Boise, ID

RSVP with you sponsorship level and guest names to

Rebecca@idmed.org

More info at **bit.ly/LittleFundraiser**
