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Idaho Medical Association

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IMAgés

September 15, 2019

Last Chance to Comment on Medicaid Waiver Requiring Work Reporting

Time is running out to voice your opinion about the proposed Section 1115 Medicaid waiver.

Please consider submitting a comment now to the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare voicing your opinion on this Section 1115 Medicaid waiver to implement work reporting requirements in Idaho. Easily [submit your comment here](#) before September 22.

As IMA reported to you at the end of the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers passed a bill to add work reporting requirements to Idaho's voter-approved Medicaid expansion. Therefore, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) has prepared a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver, which is an application to the federal government to require work reporting. As a part of this process, DHW has opened a public comment period on this waiver through September 22, only a week away.

The IMA Board of Trustees adopted policy on Medicaid expansion that states IMA will not support any provisions that:

- Lead to delayed implementation of Medicaid expansion
- Add administrative burdens and costs to the state in administering Medicaid expansion
- Take away coverage from eligible individuals or are punitive in nature

The provisions in the work reporting waiver will not lead to delayed implementation of Medicaid expansion in Idaho, but will undoubtedly add administrative burdens and costs to the state that could otherwise go toward helping Idahoans.

In states where work reporting requirements have been enacted, thousands of otherwise eligible Medicaid recipients lost health coverage, and some even lost their jobs. In addition, work reporting requirements imposed by some states have been deemed illegal in federal court.

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The Idaho Medical Association Welcomes New Members

A warm welcome to these physicians who have recently joined the IMA:

Ryan Baugher, DO, Family Medicine, Boise
Jennifer Bentwood, MD, Family Medicine, Moscow
Brad Bowman, MD, Family Medicine, Post Falls
James Crouch, MD, Nephrology, Boise
Summer L. Day, MD, Pediatric Cardiology, Moscow
Trent Giles, DO, Family Medicine, Nampa
John Gray, MD, Pathology, Twin Falls
Dennis M. Klein, DO, Family Medicine, Post Falls
Timothy H. Moon, MD, Internal Medicine, Boise
Shawn C. Richards, MD, Ophthalmology, Lewiston
Nathan J. Thompson, DO, Hematology, Pathology, Twin Falls

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IMA Board of Trustees Election Results

The results are in for the Idaho Medical Association District Four (Seat A) Trustee election! Congratulations to Stacia Munn, MD who will represent all physicians in Ada County for a four-year term and will be eligible for re-election in 2023. Munn specializes in Family Medicine in Boise. IMA also congratulates Darby Justis, MD who has been reelected as District Two Trustee and Mary Barinaga, MD who has also been reelected as District Four (Seat B) Trustee.

The IMA Board of Trustees acts on all policies, regulations, and legislation affecting physicians, their practices, the profession, and healthcare delivery in our state. The next IMA Board of Trustees meeting will be held on October 4, 2019.

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Idaho Confirms Vaping-Related Lung Illness Cases

Public health officials have confirmed two Idaho cases of serious respiratory disease associated with electronic cigarettes or other vaping devices, according to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. IDHW says the two patients are recovering.

“Idaho healthcare providers are notifying us of patients with severe respiratory symptoms who report vaping in the days or weeks before they became very sick,” said Deputy State Epidemiologist Dr. Kathryn Turner. “We are investigating each report and looking for things that might be common among the patients as well as asking about the types of vaping products and devices people have used to try and pinpoint the source of these illnesses.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of September 12, 2019, 380 cases of severe pulmonary disease associated with the use of e-cigarette products have been reported from 36 states and one U.S. territory.

Though many patients reported using e-cigarette liquid products that contain cannabinoid products, such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the investigation has not found a specific substance or e-cigarette product that is linked to all cases.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

CDC encourages clinicians to report possible cases of e-cigarette associated pulmonary disease to their local or state health department for further investigation.

If e-cigarette product use is suspected as a possible cause for a patient’s lung disease, the provider should obtain a detailed history of the substances used, the sources, and the devices used. In addition, CDC asks providers to try to determine if any remaining product, devices, and liquids are available for testing.

CDC recommends the public considers not using e-cigarette products while this investigation is ongoing.

Symptoms and Treatment

Some patients in this investigation have reported symptoms such as:

- cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain
- nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- fatigue, fever, or weight loss

Antibiotic therapy alone has not consistently been associated with clinical improvement. To treat the affected patients, many patients have required medical treatment with supplemental oxygen, some required ventilation, and some were treated with corticosteroids with demonstrated improvement. CDC and FDA will continue to alert the public throughout this investigation.

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Order Your Complimentary 2019 Directory of Idaho Physicians!

Issues of the 2019 Directory of Idaho Physicians are still available! Order your copy today!

As a membership benefit, IMA physician members receive one complimentary copy of the Directory and additional copies are available for \$40. Don’t miss the opportunity to take advantage of this valuable membership benefit. Order yours today!

The Directory provides the office address and telephone number of every physician in Idaho. This comprehensive physician reference also features listings by location of practice and specialty, plus a directory of Idaho hospitals.

Order forms are available on the [IMA website](#) or call the IMA at 208-344-7888.

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Value-Based Healthcare Forum, October 8-9, 2019, Boise State University

Listen to national experts discuss cutting-edge payment and enhanced healthcare delivery models in order to thrive in the Value-Based world. This forum will include facilitated Think Tank sessions and the following guest speakers:

Alina Czekai, CMMI rural healthcare redesign expert
Katie Coleman, Kaiser co-author of “Partnership for Success”
Rachel Tobey, co-author of “Partnership for Success”
Ray Costantini MD, CEO/Founder Bright MD
More Speakers TBD

Get more information about this event and register [here](#)

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Workflow Changes That Can Help Physician Burnout

Physician burnout is a widespread problem among primary care doctors. To address this, an academic general medicine clinic in San Francisco aimed to change faculty perceptions of burnout and work-life balance. By creating an efficient health care workflow, this academic clinic saw a significant reduction in physician burnout.

At the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the Division of General Internal Medicine completed a burnout survey. Compared with other academic general internal medicine divisions, UCSF physicians reported higher burnout (56% versus 33%) and stress (88% versus 65%), according to a Journal of General Internal Medicine study co-written by Jon Lee, MD, Mitchell D. Feldman, MD, MPhil, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at UCSF, and AMA member Mark Linzer, MD, an internist and director of general internal medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

UCSF executive leaders implemented a set of workflow changes that reduced burnout from 56% to 31% and stress from 88% to 63% for UCSF physicians. These are the updates they made.

Call management

On average, when a patient called the practice their message was touched seven times before it was resolved, requiring several days to complete. As a result, patients would call again because they were not getting a response, leading to duplicate messages.

“We created a one-touch team with the goal of resolving 50% of incoming phone calls on first touch. We’ve been able to do that from day one of this one touch team,” Dr. Feldman said.

Inbox management and coverage

Nurse practitioners were hired to help with [in-basket management](#) and coverage for physicians who were out of the office. These nurses check the physician’s inbox to see if a patient needs to be called back or what else can be handled during the day.

“It’s helping to reduce some of the inbox work so that there’s less at the end of the day—the ‘pajama time,’” said Dr. Feldman.

Decompressed clinic schedules

Adding two administrative “desktop” slots created time for documentation and in-basket management during the clinic day. To do this, one appointment in the day was removed and substituted with a clinical desktop slot for clerical work. Reducing the volume expectations for busier doctors helped to reduce the amount of work they did after office hours.

Share the Care

To create more cohesive clinical teams, the division moved to a new system of clinic “flow.” This allowed medical assistants or licensed vocational nurses to act as “flow managers” and take on new responsibilities such as agenda setting. These flow managers also helped to resolve inbox messages in between patient visits.

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Idaho Prior Authorization Survey

The IMA strongly urges you to take a very quick, 12-question survey about Prior Authorization.

In order to understand the impact Prior Authorization (PA) has on Idaho patients and physicians, it is critical to know your practice's PA experiences. We rely on your response for an accurate picture of the PA challenges practices face in Idaho.

[Take the survey here](#)

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Last Chance to Register!

IMA Education Series Webinar: *Challenges and Changes Series* Wednesday, September 25, 12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

Register today to join IMA Reimbursement Director Teresa Cirelli, CPC, CPMA and Reimbursement Specialist Pam McCord, CPC, COC, CPMA on Wednesday, September 25 for the next webinar in the ever-popular Challenges and Changes series. Teresa and Pam will be covering important third quarter updates including changes in ICD-10 coding for October 1 and vaccine coding (1 CEU).

Don't miss this valuable webinar! A registration form is available on the [IMA website](#). Questions? Contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org.

Next Up: October 16 – Legal Issues in Healthcare

This program has received prior approval by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) for one (1) continuing education credit. Granting of prior approval in no way constitutes endorsement by AAPC of the program content or the program sponsor.

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Veterans Report Lack of Urgent Care Access in Rural Idaho, Senators Seek Answers

Last week, Idaho and Oregon senators wrote a letter to TriWest Healthcare Alliance concerning their implementation of the new urgent care benefit under the VA MISSION Act.

This act sought to improve urgent care access to veterans who live far away from VA medical centers. The urgent care benefit provides eligible veterans to non-emergency care in the VA network of community providers.

However, in their letter, the senators said they have received reports from veterans in rural Idaho and Oregon who are unable to access this new benefit because of a lack of any in-network urgent cares in their area.

The senators wrote, "Veterans in Roseburg, Oregon have no in-network urgent care clinics within 20 miles... Pocatello, Idaho, with a population of approximately 55,000, has no in-network urgent care clinics within 20 miles, and Lewiston, Idaho, which has a population of approximately 33,000, has no in-network clinics within 50 miles."

TriWest was awarded the contract to provide network providers for veterans in Idaho and Oregon.

The senators submitted the following questions to TriWest in the letter:

- What are the barriers preventing TriWest from building out its urgent care network by the original deadline of July 15, 2019, previously cited on TriWest's website?
- What metrics is TriWest using to determine when the urgent care network is "complete"?
- By when is the urgent care network expected to be "complete"?

The senators urged TriWest to expand its urgent care network as soon as possible.

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IMA's Margy Leach Retires After 18 Years

Margy Leach has retired as the IMA Director of Communications after almost two decades with the association! In 2001, she started her career with the IMA as an administrative assistant, later she became a reimbursement specialist and, for the past 10 years, she has served as the director of communications.

Leach's interest in healthcare fueled her long career with IMA. "I always thought it would be great to become a doctor, but I'm way too squeamish when it comes to blood so I've really enjoyed working with doctors and on healthcare issues behind the scenes," said Leach.

During the last 18 years, Leach has been able to witness significant changes in Idaho's healthcare system. At the beginning of her career, she saw the trend of Idaho doctors becoming employed by hospital systems rather than working as independent doctors. More recently, she was able to take part in IMA's dedicated efforts to expand Medicaid in Idaho.

Leach says one of the best parts about working with IMA was getting to know the physicians and building friendships with them. She will miss her IMA co-workers who made her many years with the IMA so enjoyable.

Leach and her husband plan on moving and enjoying retirement in Pennsylvania. She hopes to spend time volunteering and wants to travel to New England and the Florida Keys. The IMA will miss Margy and wishes her a very happy retirement!

IMA's new director of communications is Amika Empey. She received her bachelor's in communication at Cornell University and a master's in journalism at Syracuse University. Empey has spent the last few years as a reporter for KBOI-2 in Boise and as a social media content writer. Empey looks forward to serving the IMA!

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Medical Practice Opportunities

OB/GYN Opportunity with Intermountain Healthcare – Burley, Idaho

What does it mean to be a part of Intermountain Healthcare? It means that the quest for clinical excellence is not just a goal, but a given. It means building an environment where physicians and employees can deliver the best in healthcare. And it's realizing each employee or volunteer is vital to the healing process, because we can only achieve the extraordinary together. Being a part of Intermountain Healthcare means joining with a world-class team of over 36,000 employees and embarking on a career filled with opportunities, strength, innovation, and fulfillment. Our mission is: Helping people live the healthiest lives possible®. Our patients deserve the best in healthcare, and we deliver.

We are currently looking for an OB/GYN physician to join the team at Cassia Regional Hospital in Burley, Idaho. Enjoy a competitive salary and our comprehensive benefits package, which includes a pension, 401K, malpractice coverage, and CME. Relocation provided, up to 15K.

For more information, contact us at

physicianrecruit@imail.org

800-888-3134

PhysicianJobsIntermountain.org

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

*September 25, 2019 IMA Education Series: Challenges and Changes
12:15 - 1:30 pm (MT) Webinar (Editor's Note: Date has been changed.)*

October 16, 2019 IMA Education Series: Legal Issues in Healthcare
12:15 - 1:30 pm (MT) Webinar

October 25, 2019 ACMS Annual Meeting, Boise, Riverside Hotel

Additional information and registration forms for seminars
are available at www.idmed.org.

Idaho Medical Association

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