

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



2022 Idaho legislative session begins!



Subscribe to IMA's Legislative Reports at: bit.ly/IMALegislativeReport



No Surprise Billing Rules: Resources for providers

The No Surprise Billing Rules to implement the No Surprises Act took effect Jan. 1, 2022. Please review the helpful resources below to ensure compliance.

Holland and Hart checklist: In response to numerous questions, Holland and Hart Law has developed a checklist to help physicians and facilities implement and comply with the new statute and rules. This information is now available to all IMA members. View the helpful checklist here: bit.ly/33zQ7mY

AMA toolkit: The American Medical Association has published a toolkit for physicians on implementation of the No Surprises Act (NSA). The AMA will be updating this document as additional guidance is available, as well as developing new resources on the remaining provisions of the NSA not included in this toolkit. Visit the toolkit here: bit.ly/3fo18e0

DOI resources: The Idaho Department of Insurance has created a webpage of No Surprise Act resources for Idaho health care providers. Visit the DOI webpage here: bit.ly/3FrkLw4

Inside this issue

- 1 No Surprise Billing Rules: Resources for providers
- 2 The Idaho Medical Association welcomes new members
Webinar: Implementing the No Surprises Act
IMA Public Health Committee White Papers on COVID-19
- 4 Governor's State of the State address
Subscribe to the IMA's weekly Legislative Reports
- 5 Senate Health and Welfare to hold hearing with IMA members
Supreme Court blocks Biden's OSHA vaccine mandate, upholds CMS
- 6 Public Health Emergency Extended
Omicron infections now 88% of new Idaho COVID-19 cases
- 7 MPO's

The Idaho Medical Association welcomes new members

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

Jeffrey Bank, MD, Gastroenterology, Boise, ID
Troy Bushman, DO, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Idaho Falls, ID
John Grider, DO, Internal Medicine, Idaho Falls, ID
Kate Khorsand, MD, Dermatology, Coeur D Alene, ID
Heather Layher, DO, Dermatology, Coeur D Alene, ID
Orlan Macdonald, MD, Radiation Oncology, Spokane, WA
Jose Pena, MD, Pediatrics, Twin Falls, ID
Jennifer Salame, MD, Pediatrics, Twin Falls, ID

Webinar: Implementing the No Surprises Act

Register to join the American Medical Association for a webinar on **Thursday, Jan. 20 at 11AM MST, "Implementing the No Surprises Act."** The No Surprises Act, which aims to protect patients from the financial impact of surprise medical billing, became law on Jan. 1.

Learn what physicians need to do immediately to comply with the new law. Our experts will also address enforcement challenges and the interaction between state and federal surprise billing requirements.

Moderator: Bobby Mukkamala, MD, chair, AMA Board of Trustees

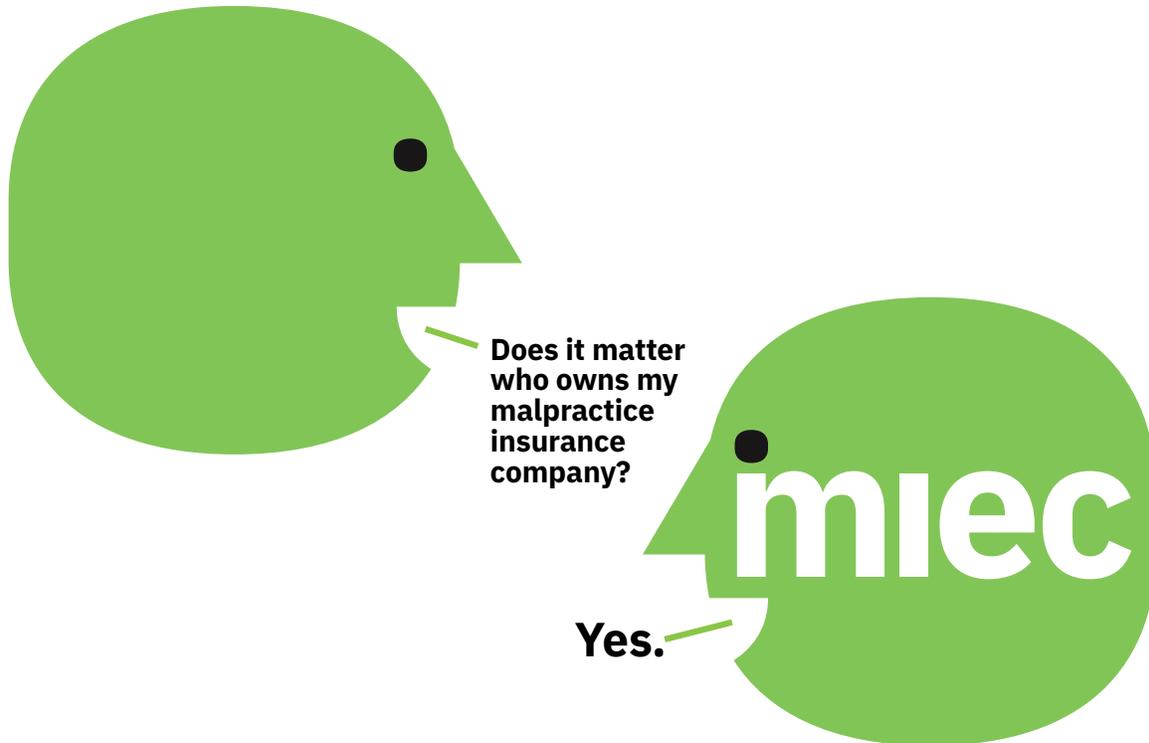
Featured speakers: Joel S. Ario, managing director, Manatt Health, Michael S. Kolber, partner, Manatt Health

Register here: bit.ly/3nlzQcl

IMA Public Health Committee White Papers on COVID-19

The Idaho Medical Association's Public Health Committee has written a series of White Papers to explain commonly misunderstood aspects of COVID-19. These White Papers are written for patients, the public, and Idaho legislators as they consider healthcare legislation. The IMA Public Health Committee is comprised of Idaho infectious disease physicians, pediatricians, family physicians, and more. Read the following white papers by visiting the homepage or the COVID-19 webpage on idmed.org:

- Natural Immunity vs. Vaccine-induced immunity
- Antibody Testing Facts
- Spreading the Coronavirus - Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated
- Medical community objects to promotion of ivermectin for prevention or treatment of COVID-19
- Understanding the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)



As a reciprocal exchange, MIEC is entirely owned by the policyholders we protect. With no external shareholders to satisfy, this ownership model allows us to return profits to whom they rightfully belong—MIEC policyholders. We do not inflate our surplus or tie up profits in nonguaranteed deferred retirement plans, we give it back. Over the last 45 years we have put more than \$446 million back in the pockets of our policyholders. To learn more about the benefits of being an MIEC policyholder, or to apply, visit miec.com or call **800.227.4527**.

Get a quote today.

Insurance by physicians, for physicians.™



Governor's State of the State address

On Jan. 10, Gov. Brad Little gave his fourth State of the State address which officially kicked off the 2022 legislative session. The governor began his speech by highlighting pandemic heroes, including IMA members Dr. Joseph Williams and Dr. Laura McGeorge who were in attendance. They received a well-earned standing ovation alongside nurses, police officers, guardsmen and teachers.

During the speech, the governor highlighted priorities in his budget request with an emphasis on education, infrastructure and tax cuts. Thanks to a \$1.9 billion budget surplus, significant investments will be made in those three areas and others through the governor's Leading Idaho initiative.

The governor is also focused on health care investments including the State Board of Education's request to fund 14 new residency positions as part of the 10-year Graduate Medical Education plan. With revenue in Idaho at record highs, the IMA lobby team will explore ways to bolster this request to make up for some past funding shortfalls in leaner years.

Another notable health care initiative in the governor's budget is the \$50 million proposed investment in mental health. The funding will be used for new community behavioral health clinics, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, youth crisis centers and other recommendations from the Idaho Behavioral Health Council.

The governor's budget does recommend rate increases in Medicaid for home-based care and providers who will be covered for the foreseeable future by increased federal funds. However, the Legislature will closely look at a longer-term vision for Medicaid; IMA will be directly involved with partners in those conversations to ensure that if there are changes to Medicaid, they don't harm patients, physicians or access to care.

Things will start heating up in the Capitol next week so stay tuned for more updates on the budget and other health care issues that the Legislature will discuss.

Subscribe to the IMA's weekly Legislative Reports

Throughout the legislative session, the IMA publishes weekly Legislative Reports with comprehensive, up-to-date information on the activities of the Idaho Legislature. This report also includes a link to the IMA Bill Tracker which lists all the legislation IMA is monitoring and provides status updates, IMA will update this list every Friday

Subscribe to receive the IMA's Legislative Reports via email by visiting:
bit.ly/IMALegislativeReport

BUSINESS UNUSUAL

BUSINESS SERVICES



At Idaho Central Credit Union, we understand how healthcare professionals work, especially when it comes to user-friendly online banking. You can rely on us to be your business banking experts. At Idaho Central Credit Union, you're a partner.

Welcome to Business Unusual. We're here to help you plan your future, manage your cash flow, and grow your business with a full suite of business services, including:

- Business Checking, Loans, and Cash Management Services
- Online Banking and Business Bill Pay
- Commercial Real Estate and more

Visit iccu.com for more information.



Senate Health and Welfare to hold hearing with IMA members, focus on the pandemic

Senate Health and Welfare to hold hearing with IMA members, focus on the pandemic
On Tuesday, Jan. 18, IMA members Dr. Ann Huntington and Dr. Marcia Witte will present a COVID-19 update to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee at 3 PM MT.

Specifically, Dr. Huntington will share her experience during COVID-19 in her facility and the impacts it has had on her and others in the health care workforce. This hearing was requested by Chairman Fred Martin (R-Boise) who attended the ACMS Legislative Night and was compelled by Dr. Huntington's powerful presentation.

You can watch the hearing in-person at the Statehouse or online at bit.ly/3rlfv2H

Supreme Court blocks Biden's OSHA vaccine mandate, upholds CMS requirement

On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Biden administration's rule under the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) that would have required employers with 100 or more employees to get vaccinated or agree to regular testing. This was estimated to impact more than 80 million people. The court ruled against the Biden order 6-3, with the majority opinion stating that Congress did not give OSHA the right to regulate public health that broadly.

However, the Court upheld the rule under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which will require employers who receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to require vaccinations for their employees. This rule will impact more than 10 million people. The court ruled 5-4 in favor of upholding the Biden rule. The majority opinion stated that the Constitution allows the federal government to require conditions on federal funding.

Public Health Emergency Extended

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

As expected, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration was signed January 14, 2022 and will extend pandemic relief another 90 days through April 14, 2022. This will keep in place all the rules that fall under the 1135 Waivers in relation to coding and billing. The IMA reimbursement consultant team at Gill Compliance will continue to update the Payor Portal Tool which summarizes Idaho payor rules for telehealth, virtual services, vaccines, and testing. This is a **free** subscription to IMA members. We encourage providers to continue to monitor private payor rules, as they continue to change. To access this portal, visit the Coronavirus Resources webpage at idmed.org.

Omicron infections now 88% of new Idaho COVID-19 cases

Idaho health leaders warned Tuesday that the Omicron variant is leading the surge of COVID-19 cases across the state - now making up nearly 90% of new infections.

The revelation came during the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's weekly COVID-19 briefing Tuesday as case counts continue to trend upward across the state.

The percent of positive covid tests has doubled in the last month from 8.6 percent in December to 17.1 percent in January.

By comparison, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare says the Delta wave peaked at 17.3 percent positivity.

"We expect that to continue to increase," state epidemiologist Dr. Christine Hahn said.

The address comes the day after 1,289 new cases were confirmed. Doctors say the Omicron variant - now 88% of positive cases in Idaho - appears to be highly contagious but possibly less severe than previous variants.

The increased demand for testing has created backlogs of nearly 15,000 tests, making it tougher for health officials to get an accurate picture of the spike. If the infection trends continue however, officials are predicting a major increase. [Baertlein, *KTVB News*, 1/16/22]

Read this full article at KTVB.com.

Renew your IMA membership for 2022!

It's time to renew your IMA membership for 2022!

Be on the lookout for an invoice. Easily join or renew by visiting idmed.org.

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.



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE ID
PERMIT #153

Calendar of Events

February 16, 2022

IMA Education Webinar:

Challenges and Changes: Inpatient & Outpatient E/M Rules - 2021 vs. 1995/1997. Gill Compliance Solutions, Jana Weis (1 CEU)
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

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