

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



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March 31!



JFAC approves GME budget

On March 11, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) approved the health education portion of the State Board of Education budget by a vote of 17-2 – this budget line item includes funding for undergraduate medical education and graduate medical education programs.

Thanks to strong outreach from students, residents, and program directors, in addition to the IMA lobby team's efforts, the budget was approved with an expanded appropriation for GME. Key members of JFAC and the governor's office agreed to consider additional funding that brings the FY23 budget into closer alignment with the Ten-Year GME Plan.

To comply with an arbitrary budget cap, the original request funded 14 slots below the full funding amount in the Ten-Year Plan. However, thanks to a large budget surplus in the State of Idaho and strong advocacy at the Statehouse, the budget now funds 21 new residency slots at the full \$60,000 level as established in the Ten-Year plan.

Thank you to everyone who wrote to JFAC with their support for GME! Please take a moment to contact all representatives and senators asking them to pass the bill approved by JFAC: bit.ly/MessagedahoLegislators

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HB 675 to criminalize gender affirming care passes House, possibly stalled in Senate

Legislation that would make it a felony for physicians to provide gender affirming care to transgender minors passed the House on March 8 by a vote of 55-13 and now awaits consideration by the Senate State Affairs Committee. HB 675 was introduced by Rep. Bruce Skaug (R-Nampa).

IMA is opposed to HB 675 due to existing policy in opposition to the criminalization of legal and medically appropriate treatments that meet the recognized standard of care, in addition to a policy adopted by the IMA House of Delegates in 2021 that supports gender affirming care that is medically necessary and evidence based.

The IMA has been actively lobbying against the legislation as IMA CEO Susie Keller testified in opposition during the House State Affairs Committee. Keller cited concerns with criminalizing medical care, interfering with parental rights and diminishing our state's existing strong law against female genital mutilation.

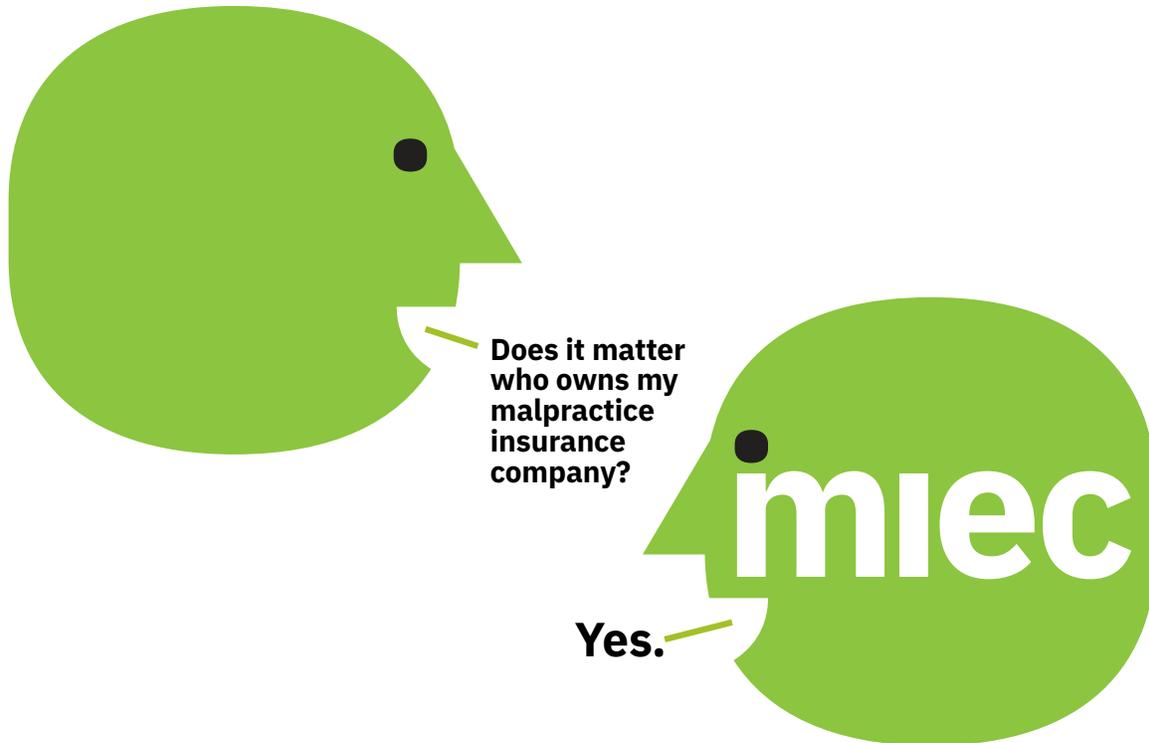
The IMA lobby team and physicians have been meeting with Senators to convey concerns and answer questions about HB 675. On March 9, Senate Pro Tem Chuck Winder (R-Boise) said the bill has, "pretty low odds of advancing." However, the future of the bill is very fluid, and IMA encourages members to voice opposition to the bill. If you have not already weighed in with your Senator, IMA has an action tool available at: bit.ly/MessageldahoLegislators

IMA Education Webinar Series

Challenges & Changes: Global Services for Surgery and Maternity. Gill Compliance Solutions, Nicole Benson (1 CEU)

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 12:15 – 1:15 pm (MST)

Register today to join IMA Reimbursement Consultant Nicole Benson, Gill Compliance Solutions on March 16, 2022. 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. A registration form is available at idmed.org. Questions? Contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org



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Nominations open for IMA Trustee in District Two

A trustee position on the Idaho Medical Association Board of Trustees, representing District Two, has been vacated and needs to be filled for the remainder of the four-year term. The position has one and a half years remaining and will be up for election again in October 2023. Current District Two Trustee, Darby Justis, MD is resigning, which leaves the Trustee seat vacant. Physicians interested in running are encouraged to submit their name for nomination by using the survey link below.

District Two Trustee represents all IMA physicians in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Yakima counties. The IMA Board meets four (4) times per year. The first Board meeting was held in Boise, February 11, 2022 and the second board meeting will be in Boise, April 29, 2022. The third meeting is part of a Board retreat held August 12-14, 2022 (location TBA). The final meetings of the year are held during the IMA House of Delegates/Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, October 6 - 9, 2022. All travel, hotel, and meal expenses in association with Board meetings are paid for and/or reimbursed per policy. Spouses or guests are invited to participate in all social events included with Board meetings.

The IMA Board of Trustees takes action on all policies, regulations, and legislation affecting physicians, their practices, the profession, and healthcare delivery in our state. Our goal is to have the elected Trustee in place to attend the in-person IMA Board of Trustees meeting in Boise, April 29, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org. If you are interested in running for this position, please complete the survey link below and your name will appear on the official ballot to be sent electronically to all eligible voting members of the North Idaho Medical Society.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

To submit a nomination, visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/7Q9H68L

The Idaho Medical Association welcomes new members

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

Donald Adams, MD, Pain Medicine, Nampa, ID
Michael Born, MD, Administrative Physician, Boise, ID
Jennifer Gruenenfelder, MD, Urology, Boise, ID
Kevin Mitchell, MD, Nephrology, Meridian, ID
Donald Morris, MD, Nephrology, Meridian, ID
James Roth, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ontario, OR
Harnek Singh, MD, Internal Medicine, Moscow, ID
Mathew Taylor, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, Moscow, ID
David Thompson, MD, Psychiatry, Boise, ID

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AMA successfully urged CMS to re-open 2021 MIPS hardship exemption

Due to American Medical Association (AMA) advocacy, CMS has re-opened the 2021 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) extreme and uncontrollable (E&C) hardship exemption process. Physicians have until March 31 to submit a 2021 exemption to avoid a 2023 negative payment adjustment.

At the start of 2022, the AMA heard from multiple practices that were concerned they would receive a negative 2023 MIPS payment adjustment because they missed the 2021 MIPS E&C hardship application deadline and/or their end of year MIPS scores were impacted by the dramatic surge in COVID cases due to Omicron. The original E&C hardship application deadline coincided with the increase in COVID cases and as a result increased demands on practices. The re-opening of the 2021 application period will give physicians, including alternative payment model (APM) participants, much-needed relief and better ensure they avoid a 2023 MIPS negative payment adjustment. Physicians have until March 31, 2022, to submit an E&C application due to COVID.

As a reminder, physicians who do not submit any MIPS data for the 2021 MIPS program will automatically avoid a 2023 penalty. If a physician, practice or physician/practice part of an APM is unsure of their status and believe you have been affected by the E&C circumstances (such as the public health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic), you can apply for this exception by March 31.

For more information, please see the Quality Payment Program COVID-19 Response webpage of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website. You can contact the Quality Payment Program at (866) 288-8292, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Eastern or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov. To receive assistance more quickly, please consider calling during non-peak hours—before 10 a.m. and after 2 p.m. Eastern. Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

IDHW Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program survey

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Public Health, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program has received funding to develop a viral hepatitis elimination plan for Idaho. The viral hepatitis elimination plan is in response to the World Health Organization (WHO) global guidance to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

To help inform Idaho’s viral hepatitis elimination plan, IDHW needs a better understanding from providers on their screening, testing, and treatment of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C for their patients.

IDHW is nviting healthcare professionals across the state to participate in this survey. The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and will remain open until midnight on Friday, April 15th.

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate in this survey. Please share with other healthcare professionals that might be interested in providing feedback.

Viral Hepatitis Health System Needs Assessment Survey link: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41612658/8fdc/>

Idaho Medicaid and Maternal Health stakeholder meeting

The drug overdose epidemic has escalated over the last few years, with over 100,000 individuals dying from a drug overdose nationwide in 2021. Substance use disorders (SUD) affect individuals throughout our communities, including women who are pregnant. Idaho’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee monitors annual pregnancy-associated deaths, and most of the maternal deaths over the last three years were among Idaho Medicaid participants and about half were related to SUD. Idaho Medicaid would like to determine how to better serve pregnant participants with SUD. Idaho Medicaid would like to hear from clinicians who provide behavioral health care and prenatal care to pregnant women with SUD.

Please join Idaho Medicaid for a virtual conversation with your colleagues to discuss: How can Idaho Medicaid help you better care for your pregnant patients with SUD? And how could a telephone-based case management program support your work?

As a thank you for participating, you will receive a free naloxone overdose prevention kit, courtesy of the Idaho Harm Reduction Project.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT CLINICIANS:

Tuesday, April 5, 12:30-1:30pm MST

Webex: <https://idhw.webex.com/idhw/j.php?MTID=mb396f408a353f011017e72754b9d8dff>

PRENATAL CARE CLINICIANS (OB/GYN, FAM MED, CNM):

Tuesday, April 12, 12:30-1:30pm MST

Webex: <https://idhw.webex.com/idhw/j.php?MTID=mae8c0e1e7bc85b126ebc8eff83b0389a>

MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Wednesday, April 27, 1:30-2:30pm MST

Webex: <https://idhw.webex.com/idhw/j.php?MTID=m932443d06c9a5832f65c2cde77b22d4a>

In Person: 3232 Elder Street, Conference Room D-East

Medical Practice Opportunities

Community Faculty (Preceptor)

Help the next generation of Idaho Family Physicians! Family Medicine Residency of Idaho Nampa Program is seeking local primary care physicians who are interested in providing supervision for Family Medicine Residents in one of our Teaching Health Centers/Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) located in Nampa, ID. As an FQHC, we are supported by a clinical care team that includes a psychologist, dieticians, clinical pharmacist, care coordinators and community health workers. We try to schedule these as 4-hour half-day clinic sessions. The frequency of these half days is negotiable (1-5 per month) and will vary based upon your availability and the residency schedule. We do provide compensation for this time.

Come share your passion for mentoring and teaching, inter-professional team skills, and experience providing outpatient care in rural or under-resourced communities. We are particularly interested in Spanish speakers, but it is not required. We welcome applications from non-family medicine trained primary care physicians as well. As a preceptor, you will be expected to provide direct oversight of residents during their clinic time. Resident patient panels include newborn, pediatric, obstetric, adult family medicine, and geriatric patients. We have back up available if you do not practice full-spectrum care. Duties during clinic time would include formal precepting of patients due to complexity or insurance requirements, availability to answer questions regarding resident patients, assisting with in-office procedures, and occasional cross cover of clinic requests. We use Epic EMR and would provide support to those not familiar with this program. Typical follow-up from a clinic session includes cosigning notes and providing feedback to residents. Lab work, imaging results, and clinic follow up is expected to be done by the resident that saw the patient, not the preceptor. If interested in learning more, please contact Dr. Kim Stutzman at kimstutzman@FMRIIdaho.org

Medical Consultant Contractor

Idaho Disability Determinations Services (IDDS) performs medical adjudication for Social Security Administration (SSA) disability claims for the citizens of Idaho. IDDS is looking for fully licensed Idaho Physicians to work as Medical Consultant Contractors to review SSA disability claims. Hours are flexible telework is available after training is completed. Please contact Mendy Reynolds mendy.reynolds@SSA.Gov for more information.

Pediatrician Provider Opportunity with Valor Health

Valor Health in Emmett, Idaho is looking for a board-certified pediatrician. Position involves management and care of children with complex medical needs, as well as being a consultant and pediatric resource for the organization's family physicians. Position includes a faculty role teaching and mentoring pediatric and family medicine residents from the Pediatric Residency of Idaho and Family Medicine Residency of Idaho.

Full-time position in a PCMH certified clinic with a Rural Health Clinic designation. Call not required. Inpatient pediatric hospital care is optional but performed at FMRI facilities. Excellent compensation package. For details: <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/890044>

Winding Creek Medical Arts

Considering an independent Internal Medicine practice? With support from Independent Doctor of Idaho's recruitment program, a signing bonus, guaranteed salary for the first year and operating line will have you on your way to full autonomy. The practice is thriving. The facility is 3200 sq. ft. and fully furnished and equipped. Purchase or leasing options available. Contact the owner at mлуquemd.com for additional information. It is the perfect opportunity to transition from a hospital based practice or for those moving to the area or expanding.



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Calendar of Events

March 16, 2022

IMA Education Webinar

Challenges and Changes: Global Services for Surgery and Maternity.

Gill Compliance Solutions, Nicole Benson (1 CEU)

12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

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

Idaho Medical Association
Unifying and advocating for
Idaho physicians

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