

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



IMA Annual Meeting
now **VIRTUAL!**



Friday, Oct. 1



ATTENTION: IMA Annual Meeting now virtual

Due to the growing challenges and pressures the current COVID-19 wave is placing on our hospitals and physicians around the state, IMA's board and staff have made the difficult decision to transition the IMA Annual Meeting that was scheduled in-person for Oct. 1-3 at the Sun Valley Resort to a **virtual only** meeting on **Friday, Oct. 1**.

If you are already registered for the in-person meeting, you do not need to do anything to attend the virtual meeting at this time. You will receive Zoom information later on. However, if you are registered for the in-

person meeting and will not be able to attend the virtual meeting, please email Tracie Carney at tracie@idmed.org to cancel your registration. Any registration refunds that may be needed, including those that were paid for in-person events, will be issued within 30 days after the date of the meeting.

If you have not yet registered for the meeting, but would like to attend, please register by **Sept. 29**.

Register for the virtual Annual Meeting at idmed.org!

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Virtual Reference Committee for Annual Meeting

Although the virtual HOD meeting will take place on Oct. 1, **most of the input and testimony will be submitted prior to the meeting.** On Sept. 1, the House of Delegates (HOD) packet was posted on the IMA website above. ALL IMA members will have until **Sept. 23** to review the proposed reports and resolutions and provide comments via the Virtual Reference Committee (VRC) process. To participate in the VRC process visit the IMA website or: bit.ly/VirtualReferenceCommittee

VRC is an online tool that allows IMA delegates and members to provide written testimony and comments regarding all proposed resolutions and reports. As with the in-person process, individuals can voice their support, opposition and suggestions for amendments for each proposal. After the VRC comment period closes, no further input or testimony will be considered via the VRC process.

The finalized Reference Committee Report will be posted here on www.idmed.org the week of Sept. 27 and emailed to all delegates. Because each Reference Committee Report recommendation will be voted on during the official HOD meeting on Oct. 1, delegates are strongly urged to review this report in advance of the video meeting. Should any delegate wish to suggest an amendment to an item in the report, a written Amendment Form must be submitted by **Sept. 30**. Access the Amendment Form at www.idmed.org.

IMA statement on Central District Health Board appointment

On Sept. 7, the Central District Health (CDH) board announced the official appointment of Dr. Ryan Cole to the CDH board. The IMA has issued the following statement in response to this appointment:

On behalf of the thousands of physician members of the Idaho Medical Association, we wish to express our serious reservations about the recent appointment of Dr. Ryan Cole to the Central District Health Board. IMA is deeply disappointed that the appointment process favored politics over public health. Dr. Cole has publicly made numerous unfounded and dangerous claims about the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 that do not align with the Idaho standard of care.

IMA represents the physicians who are on the frontlines and witnessing this devastating disease needlessly claim the lives of Idahoans. IMA strongly supports the use of scientific, evidence-based decision making for developing healthcare policies that impact our public health systems, healthcare providers, schools and universities, businesses, economy and citizens. IMA will continue to fight against harmful misinformation and uphold the Idaho standard of care. We will also continue our strong push to encourage Idahoans to choose to get the COVID-19 vaccine and to take reasonable safety measures such as wearing masks.



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Congratulations to IMA's new District One Trustee!

IMA congratulates Hollie Mills, MD who has been elected to serve the remaining term as Trustee for District One on the IMA Board of Trustees. Dr. Mills practices family medicine in Coeur d'Alene. The District One Trustee represents all IMA physicians in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties. This position is up for election in September 2022.

FSMB: Spreading COVID-19 vaccine misinformation may put medical license at risk

The Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB), which supports its member state medical licensing boards, released the following statement in response to a dramatic increase in the dissemination of COVID-19 vaccine misinformation and disinformation by physicians and other health care professionals on social media platforms, online and in the media:

"Physicians who generate and spread COVID-19 vaccine misinformation or disinformation are risking disciplinary action by state medical boards, including the suspension or revocation of their medical license. Due to their specialized knowledge and training, licensed physicians possess a high degree of public trust and therefore have a powerful platform in society, whether they recognize it or not. They also have an ethical and professional responsibility to practice medicine in the best interests of their patients and must share information that is factual, scientifically grounded and consensus-driven for the betterment of public health. Spreading inaccurate COVID-19 vaccine information contradicts that responsibility, threatens to further erode public trust in the medical profession and puts all patients at risk."

IMA supports FSMB's position. The American Board of Family Medicine, the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics have stated their support of this position as well, "We also want all physicians certified by our Boards to know that such unethical or unprofessional conduct may prompt their respective Board to take action that could put their certification at risk."

See FSMB's full statement here: bit.ly/FSMBstatement



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



IMA newsletters paused until Nov. 15

The IMA will be sending special alerts to members in place of our regularly scheduled newsletters until Nov. 15. The IMA Director of Communications will be taking maternity leave during this time. Thank you for your understanding and be on the lookout for IMA's special alerts.

HHS announces availability of \$25.5 billion in COVID-19 provider funding

The Biden-Harris Administration has announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making \$25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.

Additionally, in light of the challenges providers across the country are facing due to recent natural disasters and the Delta variant, HHS is announcing today a final 60-day grace period to help providers come into compliance with their PRF Reporting requirements if they fail to meet the deadline on Sept. 30, 2021, for the first PRF Reporting Time Period. While the deadlines to use funds and the Reporting Time Period will not change, HHS will not initiate collection activities or similar enforcement actions for noncompliant providers during this grace period.

For more information about eligibility requirements, the documents and information providers will need to complete their application, and the application process for PRF Phase 4 and ARP Rural payments, visit: <https://www.hrsa.gov/provider-relief/future-payments>.

Proud Sponsor of the 2021 IMA Annual Meeting

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TO VISIT
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Attend free one-hour trainings every week:

- Behavioral Health in Primary Care
- Counseling Techniques for Substance Use Disorders
- COVID-19
- Hepatitis C
- Opioids, Pain and Substance Use Disorders
- Pediatric Behavioral Health
- Pediatric Autism (coming Jan. 2022)

www.uidaho.edu/echo



Blue Cross of Idaho new COVID-19 updates

Blue Cross of Idaho has announced several updates to many partners in the Idaho healthcare community to try to help as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise and overwhelm our healthcare system

Here are the updates:

- BCI is extending the time period for currently approved prior authorizations, for services not yet provided, through 12/31/2021. This will give members with existing prior authorizations which are due to expire prior to the end of the year more time to have procedures performed given current delays in some non-emergent procedures.
- BCI is now automatically approving initial requests for Skilled Nursing Facilities stays for the initial 7 days. If a member needs additional days beyond 7 days, a review for medical necessity will be completed. This change applies through 10/15/2021.
- BCI is expediting approvals for medical equipment to support transitions to home care environments to avoid prolonged in-patient stays.
- BCI is extending the time period for medical facilities to complete admission notification of inpatient admissions from the current to 5 calendar days.
- BCI is covering the administration fee for 3rd dose COVID-19 vaccines and boosters as authorized by the CDC, as we have for previous doses with cost share waivers. We will process claims for 3rd doses without medical review.
- BCI is expediting the credentialing process for new providers brought into Idaho clinics and facilities to meet overflow needs due to COVID-19. For new appointment-based providers who need to be included in our provider directory, we will process the application within three business days.
- BCI will allow a roster enrollment process for providers who do not need to be credentialed, but who will be submitting claims to Blue Cross of Idaho.
- BCI will continue to waive cost share on all COVID-19 vaccine administration charges. Vaccine supplies are still being distributed by the government, but the administration charges are billable to commercial insurance companies.
- BCI will continue to accept out of state licenses for healthcare providers and have extended the recredentialing timeframe to 38 months.
- BCI continue to cover telehealth services with allowances equivalent to clinic services.

Always there. It's our policy.



**THEY GIVE ME
PEACE
OF MIND**

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CEO, IDAHO UROLOGIC INSTITUTE, ID



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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

October 20, 2021

IMA Education Webinar:

**Legal Issues in Healthcare: Guest speaker from Holland & Hart, LLP,
Law Firm, Kim Stanger will discuss current issues. (1 CEU)**
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 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

Telephone contact: 208-344-7888

E-mail contact: amika@idmed.org