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Idaho Medical Association

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IMAgEs

January 15, 2019

2019 Legislative Session Underway Be sure IMA has your email address so you receive weekly legislative updates. Follow IMA's progress as we work to implement Medicaid expansion without burdensome and costly administrative requirements, and advocate for funding to expand GME.

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Freedom Foundation Argues Prop 2 Turns Idaho Lawmakers into 'Zombie Legislators' In a blistering, 34-page reply brief filed with the Idaho Supreme Court, Idaho Freedom Foundation attorney Bryan Smith charges that the state's voter-passed Medicaid expansion initiative will turn Idaho lawmakers into "zombie legislators," suggests that the law would leave Idaho open to allowing a "\$1 million lottery winner to qualify for Medicaid expansion," and counters the state Attorney General's arguments that his lawsuit challenging the voter-passed expansion is "meritless" by saying the Attorney General's arguments are themselves "frivolous, unreasonable and without foundation."

Smith, who represents the named plaintiff, Idaho Freedom Foundation board Chairman Brent Regan, repeats his contention that the initiative, which passed with support from more than 60 percent of voters, would unconstitutionally delegate lawmaking authority to the federal government, a claim the Idaho Attorney General's office dismissed as simply not true. [Russell, *Eye on Boise*, 1/11]

The reply brief is available on the home page of the IMA website at <https://www.idmed.org>. IMA will participate in oral arguments on the litigation in the Supreme Court on January 29.

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Jeppesen to Lead IDHW Governor-Elect Brad Little has named a new director for the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, the state's single largest agency: Dave Jeppesen. Jeppesen has been with Blue Cross of Idaho for the past six and a half years, most recently serving as executive vice president and chief strategy and innovation officer. He also has had a long career in banking.

Jeppesen holds a master's degree in statistics from Ohio State University; a bachelor's degree in mathematics and statistics from Idaho State University; and an A.A. degree in math from Ricks College.

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The Idaho Medical Association Welcomes New Members A warm welcome to these physicians who have recently joined the IMA:

Sarai Ambert-Pompey, MD, Internal Medicine, Boise
 Lauren D. Bales, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boise
 Andrew L. Bennett, MD, Family Medicine, Nampa
 Pamela P. Bruce, MD, General Surgery, Ontario
 Sulabha Chaganaboyana, MD, Family Medicine, Boise
 Joshua Chong, DO, Family Medicine, Boise
 Richard C. Cline, MD, Nephrology, Pocatello
 Joseph M Dai, III, MD, Dermatology, Coeur d'Alene
 Sheev Dattani, MD, General Surgery, Boise
 Graham W. Donald, MD, Vascular Surgery, Boise
 Peter L. Fort, MD, FCCP, FAASM, Pulmonary Diseases, Internal Medicine, Pocatello
 Jacqueline Guidry, MD, Dermatology, Coeur d'Alene
 Nathan A. Kellis, MD, Internal Medicine/Nuclear Medicine, Boise
 Michael R. Matthews, MD, Family Medicine, Grangeville
 Andrew D. Michaels, MD, Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Nampa
 Lauren A. Miller, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Boise
 Alvin P. Perry, III, MD, General Surgery, Boise
 Richard Pines, DO, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Boise
 Mark Poirier, DO, Internal Medicine, Boise
 Christopher Reising, MD, Vascular Surgery, Boise
 Alison Schick, MD, Family Medicine, Nampa
 Trevor D. Tredennick, MD, Emergency Medicine, Emmett
 Vicente J. Undurraga Perl, MD, Critical Care Surgery, Boise
 Annis Vargas, MD, Pediatrics, Boise
 David A. Wald, MD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Boise
 Jessica Ziebarth, DO, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Boise

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Saltzer Has Been Sold Again The company co-founded by local developer Tommy Ahlquist announced on January 8 it plans to buy Saltzer Medical Group, which would put the practice back in local hands.

We are thrilled with this opportunity and honored to build upon an exceptional legacy of care that the Saltzer team has provided for so many years," Ahlquist said in a news release.

Ahlquist, the CEO of Ball Ventures Ahlquist or BVA, has a medical background as an emergency physician.

Ed Castledine, a former hospital administrator for St. Luke's Health System who is now a BVA executive, said he has "high admiration for the legacy and tradition of this company dating back to its founding by Dr. Joseph Saltzer."

Castledine said the acquisition "will provide a foundation as we work to increase choice and lower healthcare costs throughout the Treasure Valley and beyond."

Saltzer currently has about 50 medical providers and between 250 and 300 employees, he said.

The Saltzer board has approved BVA's offer and the deal is expected to close in a matter of weeks, the news release said.

The practice was owned by its physicians for most of its history, but the past several years saw it changing hands and the subject of litigation.

St. Luke's Health System bought Saltzer in 2012, despite warnings from Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden that the buyout may violate antitrust laws. The next year, the Federal Trade Commission, Idaho Attorney General's Office and its competitors Saint Alphonsus Health System and Treasure Valley Hospital sued over the acquisition.

A federal judge decided the deal was illegal and ordered St. Luke's and Saltzer to unwind it. That divestiture took years, but Saltzer eventually was sold to a subsidiary of global health care giant McKesson, in 2017. [Dutton, *Idaho Statesman*, 1/8]

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CDC: Flu Cases Hit 7 Million in the United States The flu season is picking up steam, with about 7 million Americans having been struck by a strain of the flu virus, health officials said January 11.

Almost half of those individuals went to a doctor, while 69,000 to 84,000 people have been hospitalized for flu-related illness, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a new release. As of January 5, 15 states and New York City were reporting high flu activity, and it was widespread in 30 states. The influenza A strain H1N1 remains the most common type of flu. This strain has been circulating and was pandemic in 2009 and in 1918.

"H1N1 is the most common [strain] in most of the country," Lynnette Brammer, MPH, head of the CDC domestic influenza surveillance team, said last week. "But it's odd that in the Southeast, the H3N2 virus is more common." The influenza A H3N2 strain was responsible for the severity of last year's flu season. When that strain predominated, nearly 1 million Americans were hospitalized and 80,000 died. The CDC does not track adult deaths from flu but does track pediatric deaths. As of January 5, influenza-related pediatric deaths reported to the CDC for the 2018-2019 flu season totaled 16.

According to the CDC, flu activity was widespread in 30 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming. [*Clinical Advisor*, 1/15]

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New Medicare Card Mailing Complete, 58 Percent of Claims Submitted with MBI The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has finished mailing new Medicare cards to people with Medicare across all mailing waves, including Wave 7 states and territories and also to people with Medicare Parts A and B who live in Canada and Mexico.

Medicare patients are using their new cards in doctor's offices and other health care facilities. For the week ending January 11, 2019, fee-for-service health care providers submitted 58 percent of claims with new Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs), showing that many physicians are already successfully submitting claims with MBIs. While you can continue using the former Social Security Number-based Health Insurance Claim Numbers during the transition period, CMS encourages you to use the new MBIs for all Medicare transactions.

To ensure that you have access to your patients' new numbers, you can individually look up MBIs if you have access to your Medicare Administrative Contractor's secure provider portal at <https://med.noridianmedicare.com/>. Likewise, your patients can access their new Medicare numbers or print official cards within their secure [MyMedicare.gov](#) accounts.

If your Medicare patients say they did not get a card, instruct them to:

- Look for unopened mail. CMS mailed new Medicare cards in a plain white envelope from the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Sign into [MyMedicare.gov](#) to get their new numbers or print official cards. They need to create an account if they do not already have one.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), so CMS can help them get their new cards.
- Continue to use their current cards to get health care services. They can use their old cards until December 31, 2019.

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Female Physicians More Likely to Report Burnout Nearly half of physicians surveyed by Medscape reported feelings of burnout, with women and those working longer hours more likely to report high stress levels.

Of the 15,069 doctors who responded to the poll, 44 percent said they were burned out, which Medscape defined as a feeling of "long-term, unresolvable job stress that leads to exhaustion and feeling overwhelmed, cynical, detached from the job and lacking a sense of personal accomplishment."

The survey found higher rates of burnout among female physicians: 50 percent compared with 39 percent in men. Women's greater likelihood to acknowledge psychological problems and their disproportionate share of child care and family responsibilities are among the reasons they might be more likely to report burnout, Dr. Carol Bernstein, a psychiatrist at NYU Langone Medical Center, told Medscape.

The breakdown by sex was similar to Medscape's findings last year, when 48 percent of female doctors and 38 percent of male doctors reported burnout.

The highest rates of burnout were found in specialties such as urology (54 percent), neurology (53 percent) and physical medicine and rehabilitation (52 percent). Physicians in public health and preventive medicine, nephrology and pathology reported burnout at the lowest levels, with about one-third of those respondents saying they felt overwhelmed.

When asked what was driving their stress, doctors cited too many bureaucratic tasks, spending too many hours at work and the computerization of their practice in their responses to Medscape, a division of WebMD.

"The whole digital world in medicine has actually made things worse for physicians," said Dr. Brunilda Nazario, lead medical director of WebMD. [LaMantia, *Modern Healthcare*, 1/16]

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HIPAA Breach Notification: When and How to Self-Report

By: Kim Stanger, Holland and Hart

So you just discovered that protected health information (“PHI”) from your organization was improperly accessed or disclosed. Are you required to self-report the violation to the affected individual and HHS?

HIPAA Breach Notification Rule. Not all HIPAA violations are required to be reported to the relevant patient or HHS. Under the breach notification rule, covered entities are only required to self-report if there is a “breach” of “unsecured” PHI. (45 CFR § 164.400 et seq.)

Unsecured PHI. “Unsecured” PHI is that which is “not rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized persons through the use of a technology or methodology” specified in HHS guidance. (45 CFR § 164.402). Currently, there are only two ways to “secure” PHI: (i) in the case of electronic PHI, by encryption that satisfies HHS standards; or (ii) in the case of e-PHI or PHI maintained in hard copy form, by its complete destruction. (74 FR 42742). Breaches of “secured” PHI are not reportable. Most potential breaches will involve “unsecured” PHI.

Continue reading at <https://www.hollandhart.com/hipaa-breach-notification-when-and-how-to-self-report>

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Idaho Psychiatric Association 2019 Annual Conference ***Trauma Through the Lifetime***

March 7-8, 2019

Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
1055 W Curtis Rd., Boise, Idaho

The 2019 Idaho Psychiatric Association conference is designed to present the latest information to enhance the way psychiatrists, other physicians, residents, and other mental health clinicians provide treatment for patients of all ages who have experienced trauma

Topics include *Raising Children in a Socially Toxic Environment*, presented by James Garbarino, PhD; *Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Traumatic Brain Injury* presented by Iqbal “Ike” Ahmed, MD; and *Sexual Trauma in Patients with Eating Disorders: An Overview* presented by Patricia Westmoreland, MD.

Additional information and registration is available at <https://idahopsychiatric.org/>.

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Medical Practice Opportunities

Remote/Independent Contractor Physician: Board certified or eligible in ob/gyn, urology, family medicine, emergency medicine, preventative medicine

We are Ro, a mission-driven healthcare technology company where doctors, pharmacists and engineers are working together to reinvent the way the healthcare system works. Ro is currently seeking remote physicians to provide care to our members via our telemedicine platform.

For more information, visit <https://ro.co/>. To apply, please contact athena@ro.co.

Physician - Nampa

Family Medicine Residency of Idaho Nampa is a new program recruiting for an experienced physician to

join our faculty group. We are developing a 6-6-6 program in a Teaching Health Center and small community hospital. Our program will focus on preparing residents for rural practice and care of the underserved. We are looking for a physician interested in broad scope in-patient work with adults, OB (ability to do CS if fellowship trained) and adolescent care. Outpatient work will be in a Teaching Health Center (FQHC) that is also a level 3 PCMH. We are supported by a clinical care team of a psychologist, dietician, clinical pharmacist, care coordinators and community health workers. We believe in team based, patient focused care and community engagement. Our community is approximately 35 percent Spanish speaking and so Spanish language skills are appreciated.

The Family Medicine Residency of Idaho is the sponsoring institution and they have an over 40 year history of producing strong, rural physicians in the Boise core program and 2 rural training tracks. The position is open now with a start date as soon as possible. Employees are eligible to participate in a comprehensive benefits package. Interested parties should contact Kim Stutzman, MD, kim.stutzman@fmridaho.org

Large, Independent Multi-Specialty Group Looking to Grow
Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Caldwell, Idaho
Full-Time

Saltzer Medical Group (SMG) is seeking growth opportunities with other like-minded physicians interested in joining an independent, multi-specialty practice in Idaho's Treasure Valley. Current specialties include Family Practice, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine and Urgent Care. Opportunities exist for Primary Care and Specialty Physicians, as well as Advanced Practice Providers, to join a well-established group of 50 plus providers.

SMG is an independent physician-led, professionally managed, large multi-specialty practice with six locations in Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Caldwell, Idaho. SMG was established in 1961 by Dr. Joseph Saltzer and the friendly, patient-oriented approach that characterized his practice is still faithfully adhered to, even in these technologically advanced times.

Contact: Vicki Tyler at 208-463-3158 or vdytler@saltzemed.com for additional information.

BC/BE Clinical Gastroenterologist
Nampa, Idaho
Full-Time

Saltzer Medical Group (SMG) is an independent physician-led, professionally managed, large multi-specialty practice with six locations in Nampa, Meridian, Boise, and Caldwell, Idaho. SMG was established in 1961 by Dr. Joseph Saltzer and the friendly patient-oriented approach that characterized his practice is still faithfully adhered to, even in these technologically advanced times.

SMG is seeking a BE/BC Gastroenterologist to work in our on-site Endoscopy Suite. Candidate would be assuming a mature practice and join a well-established, multi-specialty independent practice in Idaho's Treasure Valley. The practice offers a competitive salary with incentive and comprehensive benefits, along with a strong referral base within the practice.

Contact: Vicki Tyler at 208-463-3158 or vdytler@saltzemed.com for additional information.

Primary Health Medical Group, Boise

Primary Health Medical Group (PHMG) is hiring full-time board certified/eligible FAMILY PHYSICIANS for OUTPATIENT FAMILY MEDICINE positions in Boise, Nampa, and Meridian, Idaho. Our clinics are based on a patient centered medical home model that gives the family doctor the support and time that encourages trusting relationships with their patients. Family physicians work 4-4.5 days per week and hospital call is 1 out of every 20 nights consisting of nurse triaged phone calls with no visits to the hospital.

URGENT CARE positions are also available for FAMILY PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

or NURSE PRACTITIONERS – Our ideal candidate would be board certified/eligible. Urgent care positions require the provider to work approximately 14 twelve-hour shifts per month and be comfortable with the fast paced environment of an urgent care clinic. Our clinics are based on a combination clinic that has urgent care and appointment family medicine practice at the same site. Urgent care and appointment providers work together to address the patients' episodic and chronic care problems. Must be willing to work some weekends and twelve hour shifts.

Primary Health is an independent, predominantly primary care medical group with 15 clinics (soon to be 17) and more than 300,000 patient visits per year. A leader in implementing quality programs, PHMG has been using electronic health records since 2007. Physicians follow evidence-based guidelines and engage with patients in innovative ways to promote wellness. PHMG has received local and national recognition for providing efficient, quality care. Primary Health has been voted among the top 10 Best Places to Work in Idaho, and employee turnover is low. The group provides a supportive environment where family doctors develop lasting relationships with patients and enjoy a schedule that allows time to experience the many activities Idaho has to offer. Providers also have the opportunity to invest in the medical group and become an owner.

PHMG offers the following benefits to all full time physicians: – Medical and dental insurance with PHMG covering roughly 95% of the premium. – Group life insurance with options to voluntarily buy-up – A generous own occupation/own specialty long term disability policy – \$500 worth of free services in our own clinics for the physician and his/her family (per year) – A 401(k) plan with a guaranteed match – Payment for malpractice insurance, licensing fees, professional memberships and CME. PHMG offers a strong benefits package and very competitive salaries. A detailed summary of our benefits may be found on our website www.primaryhealth.com.

To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement, please contact:
Margy Leach, Director of Communications at 208-344-7888 or by email margy@idmed.org.

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