



Topline

Newsletter of the Tennessee Medical Association

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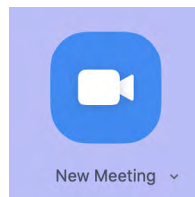


What's Inside

Symposium 2020

Early bird registration is now open with discounted rates for November's Symposium.

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House of Delegates News

Update on the October 2020 meeting and a recap of past business. **Page 4**



Education of All Forms

CEU, CME and scholarships top our education updates.

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Legislative Maneuver

The many moves our legislative team makes as bills become law.

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Tennessee Healthcare Symposium, Nov. 10-12

Early bird registration is open for the second annual Tennessee Healthcare Symposium, a three-day insurance workshop designed for practice managers, coders, billers, auditors and other medical office staff who are focused on efficiency and financial success.

TENNESSEE HEALTHCARE SYMPOSIUM

Last year's popular Tennessee Healthcare Symposium brought together 500 attendees over one day. This year, our multi-day virtual event bridges full remote

access, 31 outstanding industry speakers across 21 unique sessions and up to 17.5 CEU and CME credits for full participation (upon approval).

Symposium 2020 features Hodgen Mainda, Tennessee's Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance as the keynote opener to more than 20 outstanding industry speakers through 12 unique educational sessions and eight plan update sessions.

"We are very excited that Commissioner Mainda will kick off this year's event," said event producer Karen Baird, TMA's Director of Insurance. "He is the first Tennessee Commissioner to engage in this type of event with TMA, and it's clear that he's working to change the perception of payor bias when physicians file complaints in Tennessee."

Commissioner Mainda has agreed to take questions at the end of his session on this and other topics. Attendees can submit questions by email for Commissioner Mainda during to karen.baird.tnmed.org by Oct. 31.

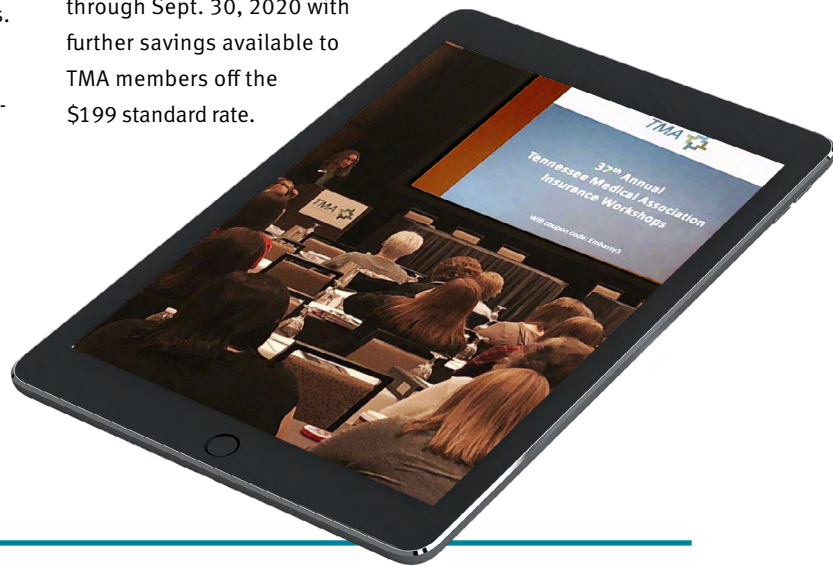
Major insurance carriers BCBST, Cigna, United Healthcare, Palmetto, Humana, Ambetter, TennCare MCOs, and TennCare will also take part, with overview sessions dedicated to 2021 changes and updates to the payor plans.

This event will provide useful information and suggestions on how to overcome post-pandemic challenges related to audits, revenue cycle management, and telehealth.

Seminar topics will range from TennCare and telemedicine, to coding and documentation, social determinants and episodes of care. Attendees will engage with payers in virtual chat rooms for help with claims issues, disputes and appeals, prior authorization and more. To register, follow the link off our main event page.

The 2020 Tennessee Healthcare Symposium is a collaborative event between the Tennessee Medical Association and major insurance carriers offering an array of educational opportunities to enhance medical staff knowledge and practice impact.

This year's virtual format has numerous built-in savings including less expenses and time put into travel, as well as lower costs typically associated with CEU and CME credits. Early registrants will enjoy discounts through Sept. 30, 2020 with further savings available to TMA members off the \$199 standard rate.



COVID Survey

TMA is gathering data on the impact this pandemic is having on you and your practice. This is a NEW survey to compare results to March and April data.

We will use this information to help gauge issues facing members to develop programs and services to help you. Our 20-question survey takes less than five minutes. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMAcovid19b>.

COVID RESOURCES:

We regularly update our Coronavirus Resource Center where you'll find fact sheets, legal and policy guidance, case prevalence maps and other COVID-related materials linked off our homepage at TNmed.org. You'll also find our popular COVID-19 News Updates which consolidate the more significant local and state COVID developments each week. This content is sorted by interest area so if you seek something specific and don't find it, drop us an email to legal@tnmed.org to discuss your need.

TMF Boosts Engagement and Resource Connections with Online Mental Health Screening Tool.

Six months after launching a new online mental health screening tool, the Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF) is seeing engagement rise from Tennessee health professionals who have taken the screening and connected to nearby resources.

TMF Medical Director Michael Baron, MD, MPH, FASAM, is pleased with the performance of the Tennessee Professional Screening Program (TN PSQ) thus far.

“This tool is needed, especially now when physician stress is increased because of the pandemic,” he said. “I am so excited to see this project realized.”

Interactive Screening

In February, March, and April 2020, the TMF worked with stakeholder partners, including the TMA, Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners, Tennessee Hospital Association, and State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company, to share the TN PSQ link and information with their respective health communities. The link is e-tmf.org/tnpsq.

The tool utilizes the Interactive Screening Program (ISP) developed more than a decade ago by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Strictly a non-crisis service, it offers a confidential and free online mental health screening that results in referrals to appropriate mental health resources and optional interaction with a program counselor.

“This tool is anonymous, voluntary, free of charge, and the outcome is completely driven by the user,” Dr. Baron said, adding this should address health professional fears involved in asking for help with mental or emotional illness.

Six-Month Data

Data from February 3-August 13 shows that screeners opting to dialogue anonymously with a program counselor were higher than average, compared to users accessing the same tool through other organizations nationwide (35.3 percent versus 30 percent).

For TMF and AFSP, one of the key results is the higher-than-average rate of requests for referrals to nearby resources (66.7 percent versus 40 percent).

“The levels of engagement from TN PSQ participants were significantly higher than the national average users of this program, which speaks to how the program is meeting the needs of health professionals...in a way that feels safe and accessible,” said AFSP ISP Senior Director Maggie Mortali.

Dr. Baron said the tool does not replace the comprehensive assistance, support, and advocacy offered by the TMF Physician’s Health Program but is one more resource in its arsenal to help health professionals who are struggling, especially as they cope with challenges related to the pandemic.

“The goal is to connect more people to the help they need earlier in the process – to be proactive versus reactive—hopefully before there’s a need for intervention by employers, a TMF referral, or licensing board action,” he said.

Visit e-tmf.org/tnpsq, contact the TMF at 615-467-6411, or Dr. Michael Baron at michaelb@e-tmf.org.



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