AMA in the News: February 2020

AMA in the News covers media coverage and mentions about the American Medical Association. Find articles recognizing our efforts in health care, advocacy, medical education and improvements in public health. Read coverage on the achievements of our leadership and the members of the AMA community.

AMA innovation arm spins out data access startup led by Geisinger alum

*Becker’s Hospital Review*, Feb. 27, 2020

Health2047, the American Medical Association’s innovation enterprise, announced on Feb. 27 its fourth spinout company: Medcurio, which develops software to improve healthcare organizations’ data access and usage. (Publication subscription is required for full or unlimited access.)

There’s a 16-year gap in life expectancy between Chicago’s West Side and the Loop. Here’s what local hospitals are doing about it.

*Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 26, 2020

Half a dozen Chicago hospital systems and the American Medical Association are doubling down on efforts to close a 16-year gap between the life expectancies of Chicagoans living on the city’s West Side and in the Loop — by investing money in neighborhood businesses.

American Medical Association, hospitals to spend $6M to close ‘life expectancy gap’ on West Side

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West Side hospitals and the Chicago-based American Medical Association agreed to contribute $6 million — nearly twice their prior commitment — to community and health improvements on the West Side.

AMA joins Chicago community coalition formed by local health systems
Modern Healthcare, Feb. 26, 2020

The American Medical Association announced Wednesday that it has joined West Side United, a coalition of health systems focused on improving health outcomes on Chicago’s West Side. (Publication subscription is required for full or unlimited access.)

Appeals Court Upholds Title X 'Gag Rule'
Medpage Today, Feb. 24, 2020

"The judges failed to properly take into consideration the AMA's legal arguments or the decision's impact on either health care or the patient-physician relationship," American Medical Association president Patrice Harris, MD, said in a statement. "This government overreach and interference demands that physicians violate their ethical obligations — prohibiting open, frank conversations with patients about all their health care options — if they want to continue treating patients under the Title X program. It is unconscionable that the government is telling physicians that they can treat this underserved population only if they promise not to discuss or make referrals for all treatment options."

Q&A: Patrice Harris, MD
MedPage Today, Feb. 17, 2020

AMA president speaks on diversity, belonging, and addressing the opioid crisis.

Dr. Patrice Harris - Modern Healthcare's 2020 Top 25 Minority Leaders
Harris is the first African-American woman to serve as president of the 173-year-old association. During her AMA presidency, she is focusing on addressing implicit bias in health care, including at medical schools and in hiring practices. She was instrumental in the AMA hiring its first ever chief health equity officer in 2019.

Medical licensing exam to be graded pass/fail
Becker's Hospital Review, Feb. 14, 2020

Susan Skochelak, MD, chief academic officer for the American Medical Association, said the AMA supports the decision. "Our student, resident and physician members voted to endorse a pass/fail policy, in part, because we know our current residency selection system is causing significant distress for our students," Dr. Skochelak said in the announcement. (Publication subscription is required for full or unlimited access.)

Surprise billing legislation unanimously passes Ways and Means

Patrice A. Harris, MD, president of the American Medical Association said, "We support the underlying mechanism for resolving these disputes, including the eligibility of all disputed claims for negotiation and mediation. We also appreciate that the mediator must consider a wide range of supporting information submitted by physicians in rendering a final determination."

A new American Medical Association study reveals a spike in digital health tools among US physicians
Business Insider, Feb. 13, 2020

A new study conducted by the American Medical Association (AMA) showed that between 2016 and 2019, usage of digital health solutions among physicians increased in every category measured, according to HealthLeaders Media. The study, dubbed "AMA Digital Health Research," compared data from a similar study conducted in 2016 to input received from the 1,359 study physicians in 2019.
AMA president: Automating prior authorization not a 'panacea' to problems facing physicians

*Fierce Healthcare*, Feb. 11, 2020

But while the AMA enthusiastically supports automating the process, President Patrice Harris, MD, cautioned that electronic prior authorization isn't a comprehensive solution to the problem.