Since launching its five-part Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians last year, the American Medical Association has achieved significant wins in these—and other—areas critical to health care. See below for more details as we continue #FightingForDocs in 2023.

PART OF THE AMA RECOVERY PLAN FOR AMERICA’S PHYSICIANS

Fixing prior authorization

• Convinced CMS to right-size the prior authorization process imposed by Medicare Advantage plans on medical services and procedures, as demonstrated in a recent final rule.

• Working in partnership with state medical associations across the country to enact prior authorization reform using AMA model legislation, data, testimony and other resources. More than 30 states have introduced legislation in 2023 alone.

33% of physicians reported that prior authorization led to a serious adverse event for a patient in their care, including hospitalization, permanent impairment, or death.*

Fighting government interference in the practice of medicine

• Working with states and federal policymakers to preserve access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care, including access to mifepristone and other evidence-based treatments.

• Fighting back against state legislative efforts to ban gender-affirming care for transgender patients.

• Successfully urged the FDA to remove categorical restrictions on blood donations for men who have sex with men.

Reforming Medicare payment

• Successfully urged Congress to introduce H.R. 2474 to apply an automatic inflation update to Medicare physician payments by tying the Medicare physician fee schedule to the Medicare Economic Index.
• Led an advocacy campaign joined by more than 150 other organizations that minimized the 8.5% in Medicare payment cuts originally slated for 2023.

Medicare physician payments (when adjusted for inflation) have declined 26% from 2001 to 2023.*

Take action to #FixMedicareNow

Improving public health

• Advocated for manufacturers to submit over-the-counter (OTC) applications for naloxone and that the FDA help make naloxone available OTC; the FDA approved its first naloxone product to be available for OTC status in March. The AMA is continuing advocacy efforts to urge manufacturers to responsibly price naloxone and for insurers to continue to cover the life-saving medication.
• Encouraging the administration to provide flexibility in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Packages to better reflect cultural and medical needs and personal preferences while promoting growth and health in women and children.
• Advised the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise its Child Nutrition Programs to limit the fat, added sugar, and sodium content in school-based food programs, and accommodate food substitutions based on cultural and medical needs and preferences.

* Source: Federal Register, Medicare Trustees’ Reports, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congressional Budget Office
Preventing firearm injuries and death

- Pushing lawmakers to adopt common-sense steps to prevent avoidable deaths and injuries caused by firearm violence.
- Partnering with state medical associations to shape state-level initiatives and legislation.
- Continuing to work with a coalition on ensuring the continuation of and increase in the funding for firearm violence prevention research.

Addressing insurer issues

- Continuing to address No Surprises Act implementation issues with the administration, Congress and in the courts when necessary. Recent court decisions, supported by the AMA, have resulted in a fairer dispute resolution process.
- United with over 100 other organizations to fight burdensome Cigna modifier 25 policy.

PART OF THE AMA RECOVERY PLAN FOR AMERICA’S PHYSICIANS

Promoting physician-led care

- Helped defeat legislation across the country that would have allowed:
  - Physician assistants to practice independently without physician oversight.
  - Pharmacists to prescribe medications.
  - Optometrists to perform surgery.
  - Scope of practice expansion for nurse practitioners and other APRNs.
- Leading AMA Scope of Practice Partnership, which has provided more than $3.5 million in grants since its inception to support state medical association and specialty society efforts.

Achieved more than 50 state-level victories to date in 2023
in partnership with state medical associations and national medical specialty societies.
Preserving access to care

- Opposed efforts to further attack the ACA and the preventive care requirements, including filing briefs to explain the importance of this care.
- Working with policymakers to address the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis in the U.S. — and improve children’s health — by permanently extending Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to 12 months postpartum among other measures.

PART OF THE AMA RECOVERY PLAN FOR AMERICA’S PHYSICIANS

Supporting telehealth

Achieved passage of legislation to extend Medicare telehealth coverage, including audio-only and hospital-at-home services, through 2024.

Pursuing solutions to the physician workforce crisis

- Pushing Congress to help stop the current and impending further crisis in the physician workforce, by emphasizing a multi-prong solution in unison with the AMA’s Recovery Plan to establish:
  - Additional GME slots and funding so that more physicians can be trained.
  - Additional funding in support of programs created through the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.
  - More loan repayment and scholarship programs for physicians provided by the Committee, such as through the National Health Service Corps.

There is a projected shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians by 2034.*

Reducing physician burnout

- Advocated for and supported new laws and policies in Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi and Virginia that protect physicians who seek care for wellness and burnout and working to implement the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.

- Urging state medical boards, health systems, credentialing bodies, and others to remove from their applications stigmatizing and potentially discriminatory questions that may deter physicians from seeking care — multiple health systems have changed their applications after consultations with AMA.

Read more about the AMA’s advocacy efforts on our web page. Read more about the AMA Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians.