The AMA Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians

The American Medical Association has achieved several wins this year related to the five critical areas we are addressing with the AMA Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians.

Progress made includes stopping bills that would have expanded the scope of practice for non-physicians, developing resources to fight burnout, continued fighting for Medicare physician payment reform and more. Read below for more details and stay tuned to the AMA as we enter 2023 #FightingforDocs.

### Achieved in 2022

- Developed a set of principles supported by over 120 other medical societies to guide advocacy for Medicare physician payment reform.
- Successfully advocated for significant Quality Payment Program relief in 2020 due to COVID-19.
- Backed introduction of the Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022, to stop 4.5% in negative budget neutrality adjustments for 2023.
- Achieved House passage of the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act in September 2022, which would ease prior authorization burdens under the Medicare Advantage program.
- Represented physician interests in a federal regulatory task force charged with streamlining prior authorization via automation.
- Supported the introduction of the Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care as Required by Doctors Act of 2022 (GOLD CARD Act), which would exempt physicians meeting a certain approval rate from prior authorization requirements under Medicare Advantage and collaborated with 7 states on introduction of state gold carding legislation.
- Helped to enact prior authorization reform laws in Michigan, Georgia, and Iowa.
- Supported introduction of broad reform legislation in New Jersey and Washington, D.C. and laid the groundwork for 2023 reform efforts in nearly a dozen more states.

### In Progress

- Pushing for comprehensive Medicare reform to increase payment stability, including annual, positive payment updates tied to practice cost inflation to ensure the financial viability of physician practices.
- Continuing to build momentum for enactment of the Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act, which would streamline prior authorization processes in Medicare Advantage plans.
- In tandem, continuing our strong regulatory advocacy for prior authorization reform by urging CMS to exercise the agency’s existing authority to protect care access for patients receiving government-regulated health benefits and reduce administrative burdens for physician practices.
- Galvanizing support for prior authorization reform among physicians and patients via the FixPriorAuth.org website and associated social media campaign.
**Achieved in 2022**

- **Fighting Scope Creep**
  - Achieved more than 35 state-level victories in partnership with state medical associations and national medical specialty societies.
  - Helped defeat legislation across the country that would have allowed physician assistants to practice independently without physician oversight, pharmacists to prescribe medications, and optometrists to perform surgery.
    - Worked alongside California medical societies to secure Governor veto of dangerous optometrist surgery bill.
  - Stopped bills that would have expanded the scope of practice for nurse practitioners and other APRNs.

- **Reducing Burnout**
  - Successfully fought for enactment of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, providing essential physician wellness resources.
  - Advocated for states to pass confidentiality protections for physicians seeking help for mental health and wellness.
  - Advocated for new laws in Arizona, Delaware and Mississippi that protect physicians who seek care from punitive actions.
  - Helped build coalitions to remove stigmatizing questions about mental illness and substance use disorders on licensure applications.
  - Expanded resources to help physicians and health system leadership understand physician burnout and how to address it.
  - Advanced a strategic roadmap to support organizations in their journey to improve professional satisfaction and organizational well-being.
  - Built a well-being assessment tool, to support organizations in holistically measuring and taking action to improve the well-being of their organization.

- **Supporting Telehealth**
  - Secured telehealth flexibilities into 2023 that extend coverage after the COVID-19 public health emergency designation ends.
  - Achieved House passage of legislation to extend telehealth flexibilities through the end of 2024.
  - Launched an updated model bill to help states advance telehealth legislation and policy.
  - Published curated webinars, interactive peer-to-peer sessions, virtual discussions, and library of resources to advance evidenced-based telehealth.

**In Progress**

- Partnering with leaders to fiercely advocate for the Department of Veterans Affairs to reject inappropriate scope of practice expansions outlined in its Federal Supremacy Project.
- Advocating for physician-led teams and opposing inappropriate scope expansions in the states and DC.
- Opposing the Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act, which would expand the scope of practice for non-physician practitioners in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
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- Helped build coalitions to remove stigmatizing questions about mental illness and substance use disorders on licensure applications.
- Expanded resources to help physicians and health system leadership understand physician burnout and how to address it.
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- Fighting for passage of legislation that would eliminate current Medicare restrictions limiting telehealth services.
- Advocating for Senate passage of a bipartisan bill that extends Medicare telehealth flexibilities through the end of 2024.

And we're just getting started. We can't do this without you. Join the AMA. Visit ama-assn.org/join

All of this information is current as of December 1, 2022.

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