March 3, 2017

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Call Your State Senator About HB 1013
(Nurse Practitioner Independent Practice Bill)
Vote ‘No’

Wednesday, the Oklahoma House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 72-20. (Click here to see how your representative voted.) The House did agree to amendments requiring advance practice nurses to carry the same $1/$3 million liability coverage as do physicians and to limit their prescribing of Schedule II drugs to no more than seven days. Unfortunately, the House also accepted an amendment allowing advance practice nurses to call themselves “doctors” while voting down an amendment that would have put these independent practitioners under the authority of the Medical Licensure Board.

We are obviously disappointed by this week’s vote. But we knew we had an uphill fight in the House, where the nurse practitioners had been lobbying for almost a year and the leadership had clearly bought into their agenda.

But this just one fight in a much larger battle. Now the stage moves to the Senate, where we would encourage you to call your Senator to urge him/her to vote no on HB 1013. We are working with Senate leadership to help ensure this measure goes to the proper committee (unlike the House, where the bill was shuttled off to the Tourism Committee). We can’t take anything for granted and we need phone calls to your Senators to vote no if the bill comes before them. We will continue to keep you updated as the bill progresses.

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Final Winter Town Hall & CME!

► Legislative Update from OSMA team of lobbyists

► MACRA/MIPS: Fundamentally Changing Physician Practices
Cori Loomis, Esq., healthcare
1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from Oklahoma’s highest-rated CME source

Thursday, March 9, 5:30 p.m.  Mercy, OKC, Conference Center, Room C, Lower Level.
Dinner provided. No charge, courtesy of PLICO MedPro and OSMA. Members & non-members welcome.
Oklahoma Physicians Make ‘House Calls’ to Nation’s Capitol

OSMA’s largest-ever physician contingent traveled to Washington, D.C. this week. They visited Oklahoma congressmen and attended the AMA’s National Advocacy Conference and Coalition of State Medical Societies meetings. Ten physicians made their colleagues’ perspectives known, some even conveying concerns to Sen. Kevin Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Several attending shared these reflections on the importance of such face-to-face meetings:

Jean Hausheer, M.D., OSMA Vice President and Lawton Ophthalmologist:

“We were able to personally meet with all our Congressmen and their health legislative assistants. We provided facts, stories and observations through the looking glass of each of our various patient sectors and backdrops. Our delegation represented all facets of Oklahoma including urban, suburban and rural practices, as well as academic, private practice, VAMC and Indian health systems. Primary care physicians, surgeons and other specialists were among the group. Our resident doctor was also helpful as he’s our future.

Representing the Rural Section of the OSMA, we hammered the physician shortage crisis and requested federal credits to attract young doctors to our rural underserved area.

We promoted the importance of transparency in pricing for procedures/drugs/services from insurance, hospitals, ASCs and providers as a way to drive down costs of medical care.

Finally, over and over we were told how we were there at the perfect time to discuss healthcare issues. Unanimously, Oklahoma senators and representatives agreed ACA should not be repealed without its replacement available first.”

Susan Hull, M.D., OSMA Rural Physicians Section Chair and Waynoka Internist:

“I am so grateful for this opportunity to work with our state’s physicians from all walks of specialties for a common cause...healthcare! I saw firsthand how our legislators are interested in learning from us about our experience and recommendations we have to make healthcare in America affordable, accessible and keeping the quality we all have exercised in our profession.

Let’s continue to be stalwarts of healthcare and strive to help form change so many in our great country can enjoy the benefits of good health and wellbeing.”

Ankur Rughani, M.D., OSMA Resident/Fellow Section Trustee, Oklahoma City Pediatric Resident:

“It was wonderful to connect with other AMA members from around the country and listen in on the concerns from other doctors in the nation. Such trips add great perspective to the importance of being politically engaged.

I was very encouraged by the amount of face time several members of Congress were able to give us, as well as by their candor. Some seemed genuinely
interested in what we had to say. Given today's vitriolic and extremely divisive political climate, it was welcoming and refreshing to know that moderate voices still count. I learned that making a personal visit means a lot to the members of Congress and it makes a stronger case for the importance/impact of an issue or topic.

The Affordable Care Act will no not be undone all at once. An individual mandate without penalties is essentially a hollow shell and will destabilize the private insurance market.”

OSMA President Sherri Baker, M.D.; Immediate Past President Woody Jenkins, M.D. and President-Elect Kevin Taubman, M.D., led the group. Others attendees were:

Peter Aran, M.D., Immediate Past President of the Tulsa County Medical Society
Jack Beller, M.D., OSMA Past President and AMA Council on Legislation member
Jenny Boyer, M.D., Vice President of the Tulsa County Medical Society
Jean Hauser, M.D., OSMA Vice President
David Holden, M.D., 2017 President of the Oklahoma County Medical Society
Susan Hull, M.D., OSMA Rural Physician Section Chair
Ankur Rughani, M.D., OSMA Resident/Fellow Section Trustee

OSMA Executive Director Ken King, CAE; Associate Executive Director Kathy Musson, CAE; and OSMA Federal Lobbyist Michael Preston accompanied the group.

Watch future issues of News Now for more articles on outcomes of this important trip or visit okmed.org.


During a briefing by the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chair Kevin Brady (R-Texas), delegates from OSMA and six other state medical societies learned about the House plan to repeal and begin replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). A substantial portion of the ACA repeal and replace efforts in the House will be taken up and considered by Congressman Brady’s committee.

According to Chairman Brady, the first steps involve parallel action during the week of March 6, by the House Ways and Means Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee (chaired by Congressman Mike Burgess, MD, (R- Texas) which is also handling parts of the ACA overhaul. The following week, the House Budget Committee would move to combine the bills into a “reconciliation” package that would make it eligible for consideration in the U.S. Senate by a simple majority of its members for floor debate. Votes on the House floor are expected the week after that.

Congressman Brady also said that the House leadership is intent on keeping to the March schedule for action on the ACA. He also indicated that while there is consensus within the Republican House Caucus on many of the healthcare changes—allowing insurance plans to be sold across state lines, expanding health savings accounts and giving states more flexibility to spend Medicaid funds—there are still some major issues dividing Republicans. The most important issue unresolved is how to handle the millions of Americans who were added to the Medicaid rolls as part of the ACA, and how to help millions more who are not covered by their employers purchase affordable insurance. Finally, Chairman Brady told the medical society delegations that great care will be taken to ensure that Americans who currently have coverage will not lose it in the transition to the new law.

OSMA is a member of the Coalition of State Medical Societies that represents more than 170,000 physicians nationwide.
2017 OSMA ANNUAL MEETING
April 21 – 22
Hyatt Regency, Tulsa

Book your hotel room at Tulsa’s Hyatt Regency NOW for discounted rates. Space is limited
Call (918) 234-1234 or reserve online or go to https://aws.passkey.com/go/OSMA2017.

SCHEDULE
Preview the full schedule (okmed.org/web) and save the dates.
Members are invited to attend all sessions. Participation is free except for CME and Inaugural.

SEEKING DELEGATES
Attend the 2017 House of Delegates Annual Meeting April 22 in Tulsa. Any OSMA member in good standing can be a delegate.
It’s a great way to get involved in representing the views of your constituents. And, you’ll fast track your knowledge of the association’s important initiatives. Notify the appropriate contact listed below to learn more and/or submit your name:

   Oklahoma County - Alison Williams, (405) 702-0500, awilliams@okcountymed.org
   Tulsa County - Mona Whitmire, (918) 743-6184, mona@tcmsok.org
   Rural Physicians – Donna Bartlett, (405) 601-9571, ext. 102, bartlett@okmed.org

CME
“The Anatomy of a Malpractice Case: My Worst Nightmare!”
Mock trial presented by attorneys from Wiggins, Sewell & Ogletree
April 21, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ from Oklahoma’s highest-rated CME source
$75 members; $100 non-members

Disclosures:
The Faculty, CME Planning Committee, Reviewer and Moderator have no relevant financial Relationships to disclose.

Accreditation Statement:
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO). The Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

"The Oklahoma State Medical Association has been surveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and awarded Accreditation with Commendation for six years as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians.
The ACCME accreditation seeks to assure the medical community and the public that the Oklahoma State Medical Association provides physicians with relevant, effective, practice-based continuing medical education that supports US health care quality improvements.
The ACCME employs a rigorous, multilevel process for evaluating institutions’ continuing medical education programs according to the high accreditation standards adopted by all seven ACCME member organizations. These organizations of medicine in the US are the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of Hospital Medical Education, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the US, Inc.”

WELCOME ABOoard TO THESE NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

- Zacharia Anderson, M.D.; Family Medicine; Okmulgee
- Shireen Bhargava, M.D.; Obstetrics & Gynecology; Lawton
- Stephen Kelly, M.D.; Family Medicine; Oklahoma City
- Girish Murthy, M.D.; Internal Medicine; Norman
- Sumit Nanda, M.D.; Ophthalmology; Oklahoma City
- Justin Parschauer, D.O.; Ophthalmology; Tulsa

More new member applications are being finalized, so watch for updates in future editions of News Now.
Opportunity for Primary Care Providers in Northeast Oklahoma

Make Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Gratifying and Efficient!

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is currently recruiting 23 PCPs practicing in Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, or Washington counties.

Are you concerned about the devastating effect of opioid use disorder (OUD) on your patients and communities but overwhelmed at the prospect of offering treatment for OUD in your own practice?

The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project aims to support PCPs in 28 rural Oklahoma counties as they learn how to deliver and expand access to MAT services for persons with OUD. MAT is an evidence-based strategy for treating persons with OUD that combines the use of medications with counseling and behavior therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treatment. AIR offers practical, hands-on assistance to you and your office team through training, case-based consultations with addiction specialists, and mentoring by experienced MAT providers. Practices will receive a stipend to facilitate data collection for a planned evaluation of the project.

PCPs should either currently hold or desire to obtain a DATA 2000 or CARA 2016 authorized waiver for buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD.

Benefits of Participation

- PCPs will receive education to enable them to obtain a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) or Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA 2016) authorized waiver for prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings.

- PCPs can earn continuing medical education (CME) credits for a variety of offered trainings, with an option to complete the requirements of the new ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine 40-Hour Program.

- PCPs and their staff will receive practical, case-based teaching and mentorship on treating patients with OUD. Webcams are provided for remote ECHO-model consultations with peers and addiction specialists.


- Selected providers will implement the program from June 2017 to September 2019.

This project is supported by grant R18HS025067 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is conducting this project in partnership with the state of Oklahoma, the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). For more information about this opportunity and to complete a brief eligibility form, visit http://OklahomaMAT.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the AIR team at OklahomaMAT@air.org or call 866-236-4285.
211ok.org: Connect Patients with Local Resources for Basic Needs

This simple, mobile friendly site offers a wealth of info on thousands of service organizations across all 77 Oklahoma counties. For our one-of-every-six residents with household incomes below the federal poverty level, there are connections to food, housing, formula and diapers.

► Search by service category
► Find nearest services
► Email or call service organization directly from site
► Access driving directions
► Spanish and English versions

Introducing New Staff

Elaine “Lainey” Grisser has joined the OSMA as its new Membership Coordinator. Previously, Lainey was a Senior Vendor Compliance Analyst at SandRidge Energy, Inc. She steps into the key role responsible for membership database management and reporting as well as communicating with physicians about their memberships.

Annette Gorny is the new Clerk for the Oklahoma Health Professionals Program (OHPP). She is providing part-time administrative support for the OSMA’s acclaimed addiction treatment and recovery program for physicians and other healthcare providers.

Join us in welcoming these terrific new team members as they work to enhance our service to you.