Can One Person Make a Difference?

One of the great privileges we have in the United States is to elect those who represent us in government from our cities, states and national venues. We are able to do this without any threat of incarceration or bodily harm. What a privilege, honor and responsibility.

The primary elections are behind us and we will enter the final stretch soon. We in medicine should be very aware of who is running in our districts and who we send to our legislature and national representation. They need to know how we feel about the laws that they make that affect us and our patients. Whether you are liberal, conservative or some such combination, you need to be involved. Our representatives need to know how you feel and you need to develop a relationship with them.

I ask you to query your candidates about health care issues, ask them the hard question and most importantly ask them to make sure we are in the ball game and they seek our input to the difficult issues. Now the hard part comes, once they ask, you must be willing to take the time to work with them to come up with reasonable solutions. The art of compromise has been lost and nowhere is it more visible than in our state legislatures and our federal government.

The MMA through its legislative committee, works very hard to represent you in all these issues. You in turn must be part of the solution!!

Now is the season!!
Ask the hard question!!!
Be part of the solution!
Choose wisely!!!

--Paul F. Grmoljez, M.D., President

NEW! Online CME and Board Review Products with Member-Only Discount

Montana Medical Association and Oakstone Publishing, LLC, have entered into a relationship to offer non-biased continuing education and certification materials to Montana physicians as well as effective, award-winning wellness resources to organizations interested in encouraging healthy lifestyle choices among their staff. As a member of the association, you’ll receive special offers and DISCOUNTS on Oakstone products.

- **Practical Reviews** is a collection of peer-reviewed journal summaries and commentaries by some of the leading physician specialists that allow healthcare professionals to stay current on critical research while earning continuing education credits. Available in over thirty specialties, Practical Reviews includes audio and text summaries in a variety of formats for use on phones, tablets, or other digital devices. Learn more about it at www.practicalreviews.com

- **CMEinfo** records some of the most important medical and dental conferences and provides digital access to these programs for learning in the home, office or on the go. CMEinfo programs are available in forty specialties, providing non-biased continuing education to prepare a physician or a dentist for board certification and recertification. CMEinfo partners with such leading institutions as UCSF, UCLA, Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins and Cleveland Clinic. Visit www.cmeinfo.com to learn more.

- **Personal Best®** has been a wellness industry leader in the U.S. and Canada for over 25 years. Personal Best is an award-winning and medically-vetted publisher of one of the most extensive
Good Medicine Has Its Rewards: $228 Million

We have returned $228 million to our members through our dividend program.

The 2012 dividend is made possible by the excellent claims experience of our members in Montana. As a leading carrier in the state for more than three decades, The Doctors Company is strong. This strength allows us to deliver on our promise to defend, protect, and reward the practice of good medicine.

To learn more about The Doctors Company’s medical professional liability insurance program in Montana, including the member dividend and our endorsement from the Montana Medical Association, call Kristi Benfit of The Doctors Agency of Montana at (800) 237-8301 or (406) 252-0049, or visit us at www.thedoctors.com.
collections of corporate wellness communication tools. Medical offices and hospitals, like MD Anderson, use these tools for their employees, community outreach and patient education. Contact Stacie Fanguy at (800) 871.9525 x3081 or go online to www.personalbest.com for more information.

Oakstone received accreditation with commendation from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) in late 2011. This places Oakstone in the top 8% of medical education content providers in the country. Oakstone is looking forward to serving the Montana healthcare community like they have for the past 35 years. To learn about the association discounts contact the MMA at tammy@mmaoffice.org or visit the members area of their website at http://www.mmaoffice.org/membersarea/index.php

--Oakstone Publishing, LLC

Leadership Opportunities Abound in MMA: We Need Your Involvement!

Physician members of the Montana Medical Association have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while assisting your professional organization to move forward in new and exciting ways. Your Board of Trustees adopted a strategic plan that calls for action in several areas. Your help is needed to accomplish these objectives and ensure MMA is relevant to all physicians in Montana now and in the years to come.

There will be no need to drive to a meeting -- we will strive to make it easy using available technology resources. Whether it is a few or many hours available on your schedule, we would greatly value your participation in one or more of the below efforts:

**MMA Membership and Public Relations Committee**

You can join this standing committee or be part of one of the two subgroups:

- **Join MMA!** will meet over a three month time-frame to discuss membership recruitment and retention. Telephone conference calls and online meetings will allow members to discuss new member categories, view website concepts and evaluate existing and potential member benefits.

- **Engage MMA!** will meet through November to establish avenues to build strategic partnerships with hospitals and other stakeholders and put those plans in place to best position the MMA to meet the needs of physicians and establish quality care across Montana.

**MMA By-Laws**

The strengthening of the MMA calls for an evaluation of the current organizational by-laws. This taskforce will meet in July and August to review the structure of the MMA, evaluate options, and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting in September.

**MMA Foundation**

The creation of a MMA Foundation would open new avenues for the MMA. What should be the Foundation’s founding purpose? How might funds be raised and used? This group will meet two or three times to explore this option and its potential benefit to supporting physicians. Jump in and be a part of growing the MMA in areas that are truly aimed to make Montana the best place to practice medicine. Contact Jean Branscum, MMA Executive Vice President, at 406/443-4000 or by email at jean@mmaoffice.org and let her know what areas above interest you.

Take Steps by June 30 to Avoid the 2013 e-Prescribing Penalty

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is urging physicians to report on at least 10 electronic scripts by June 30, 2012, to avoid the 2013 Medicare e-Prescribing penalty that amounts to a 1.5 percent reduction in their 2013 Medicare Part B payments. Physicians can also file for a hardship exemption prior to June 30, 2012. The AMA has put together a tip sheet on the steps physicians can take to avoid the 2013 e-prescribing penalty. Visit the AMA website for at http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/hit/avoid-erx-penalty-tip.pdf for more information about e-prescribing.

--AMA Advocacy Update
In your corner

Rising to the Challenge

I was fortunate to grow up on a beautiful family farm in Iowa. The hours spent working seemed long, especially in the heat of the summer. One of the joys was spending time swimming in our farm pond. Less of a joy were the leeches that lived in the mud and moss and clung to our skin. This led to the memorable event of joining my sisters in the pond to stretch a sheet of plastic across the water while my Dad shoveled sand. While it was an agonizing experience walking in the mud and having sand thrown on us, together we created a nice sandy beach and swimming area for ourselves and friends.

Like building this sandy beach, the MMA is grabbing a shovel and joining others in the muddy water to create positive change. The strategic plan takes us in a proactive direction, one geared to change how physicians and other important health care entities work and relate to the Association. The strategic goal to establish strategic partnerships also embraces this optimistic and forward-thinking approach to create opportunities for physicians to interact with others in new and different ways within an ever-changing health care system and within your very own Association.

We now need your involvement and guidance. As I visit with physicians and others it is becoming increasingly clear how important relationships are and will be in the future to ensure the viability of the physician profession. Work has begun on the objectives to engage partners, expand association services, and strengthen our relationship with MHA. We will soon take action to build direct relationships with Montana hospitals. Doctor Micheal Brown of Billings has agreed to be a physician champion of this strategic goal and needs other physicians to participate in this endeavor. Will you be the one to rise to the challenge?

I hope so. This is an exciting time to be involved with the MMA. Get revived, step out of the mud and shake off those leeches by connecting with other physician leaders in your Association and volunteering your expertise, experience, good looks or time to work on this strategic goal. Email me at jean@mmaoffice.org of your interest in helping with this goal or being part of other great things happening at the MMA.

Jean Branscum

Welcome to the MMA Executive Office

The Montana Medical Association welcomed Tonya McCormack to the executive office staff team in April 2012. Tonya joined as the Executive Secretary and is handling the administrative duties for the Association and providing support to specialty medical societies, including the Montana Society of Pathologists and the Montana Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Tonya is also providing administrative support to the Montana Academy of Physician Assistants. “It is delightful to have someone of Tonya’s caliber at the MMA. She brings years of experience in organizational management and has the skills to help the MMA and state medical societies move forward to the benefit of physician members,” stated Jean Branscum, MMA Executive Vice President.

Tonya hails from Big Sky Country and is a graduate of Carroll College. Her interests include traveling, white water rafting, mountain biking and hunting. Tonya is excited about working with physicians and the staff of MMA in carrying out the mission of the Association. You can reach her at tmccormack@mmaoffice.org.

MMA Announces Partnership with MT Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery

We are pleased to announce that the Montana Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has contracted with the Montana Medical Association to provide administrative support services to their specialty society. Effective June 1, 2012, the MMA will bring its wealth of knowledge from years of experience helping specialty medical societies, along with our well-trained staff, to assist their Society in achieving their goals.

Tonya McCormack will serve as their new Executive Director. Tonya and the MMA Staff look forward to this opportunity to support the Society with their organizational activities and attaining their primary goals.

You may contact Tonya by telephoning (406) 443-4000 or by email at tmccormack@mmaoffice.org. For more information on the association services available through the MMA, contact Tonya or Tammy Copenhaver.

Preserve the Montana Professional Assistance Program (MPAP)

Montana Professional Assistance Program, Inc. (MPAP) provides support and advocacy for impaired or potentially impaired professionals under a contract with the Montana Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Dentistry.

Any physician suspected of possible impairment must be reported to the Board of Medical Examiners under Montana law. In lieu of reporting to the Medical Board, a physician may be referred (or self refer) to the MPAP program. If the physician adheres to all MPAP recommendations for evaluation and treatment, the matter is handled confidentially without further reporting to the [Board of Medical Examiners] or the National Practitioner Data Bank.

This program is literally a lifesaver. But we need your help to preserve it. MPAP is governed by a volunteer board. None of us gets paid. Funding for operation of the program currently comes through MPAP participant fees and a special apportionment of license fees from the Montana Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Dentistry. This goes through the legislative “factory” every two years. We need to develop a more stable, ongoing source of funding to better support Montana’s physicians.

The stresses on healthcare providers are increasing. Every month, on average, three more healthcare providers contact us for help. The lifetime prevalence of alcoholism and addiction problems among healthcare professionals is between 8 - 13%. Psychiatric/behavioral issues increase this number.

“This program is literally a lifesaver. But we need your help to preserve it.”
Claim Request Tips from State Fund

Thank you for helping treat Montana’s injured workers and your patience with Montana State Fund (MSF) and ACS as we implemented our new system this year. The transition was not as smooth as we wanted, but most issues should be behind us.

MSF remains committed to providing the best service we can to help you treat injured workers. If you have problems with MSF or ACS, please let us help solve them.

One of the changes put in place was enforcement of existing standards for a “Clean Claim,” which lead to the bulk of those denials – MSF had published the need for key fields on the CMS 1500 and UB04 billing forms in past Provider Bulletins.

“Clean Claim” information supports MSF’s reporting requirements, but more important is it leads the way to electronic billing.

About those claim status requests……

We are committed to getting it right — and you can help. Here are a few things that would help MSF help you:

- When you call (406-495-5011 or 800-332-6105 ext. 5011), have the MSF claim number, your billing tax ID, the injured worker’s name and date of service available. If you have an Explanation of Review please provide the control number listed on top right hand corner.
- If you have numerous claims/dates of service, fax a list with the claim number(s), patient name(s) and date(s) of service to 406-495-5044 ATTN: Medical Team. Make sure your contact information is listed so staff can call you with the information requested.
- If you just need to send in a corrected claim and/or additional information, fax it to that number and write “Corrected Claim” on the bill with a copy of the EOR. We will do the research and paperwork to submit for re-evaluation or contact you if more information is needed. When re-billing, please maintain the date(s) of service and codes billed (unless you are billing a corrected code).
- Continue to fax or mail new bills to: Montana State Fund, PO Box 4759, Helena, MT 59604, 406-495-5020

For the “Clean Claim” required fields, see the current edition of the Provider Bulletin at www.montanastatefund.com - Provider Bulletin tab - “Clean Claim Defined”.

When you first access the Provider Bulletin, please fill in the information so you continue to get new information.

–Montana State Fund

Montana WWAMI Faculty Development Conference

The Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the Montana WWAMI program gathered WWAMI teaching faculty at Big Sky for a faculty development conference. Montana, with over 300 WWAMI teaching faculty, continues to develop a culture of teaching and this conference helped provide tools to faculty to be effective clinical educators. The conference focused on teaching in two specific tracks: preceptors teaching in the third and fourth year clerkships in Montana, and those teaching in the Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST) and the WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience (WRITE).

Speakers and/or moderators from the UW SOM included F. Curt Bennett, M.D., UW SOM Professor, Director Pediatrics WWAMI and Pediatric Medical Student Program; Heidi Combs, M.D., UW SOM Assistant Professor, Inpatient Psychiatry Medical Director, Harborview Medical Center, Psychiatry Clerkship Director; Douglas S. Pauw, M.D., UW SOM Professor, Department of Medicine/Division of General Internal Medicine, Director, Medicine Student Program; Tom Norris, M.D., UW SOM Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine, WRITE Co-chair; Tom Greer, M.D., MPH, Professor, Director of Medical Student Education, Department of Family Medicine, Co-Director, TRUST. Other speakers and panel participants included Montana WWAMI teaching faculty: Doctor Laura Bennett from Lewistown; Doctor Blair Davison from Missoula, Doctor Jay Erickson from Whitefish, Doctor Steve Gerstner from Billings, Doctor Ron Loge from Dillon; Doctor Greg Rice from Libby, Doctor Peggy Schlesinger from Missoula, and Doctor Mark Zilkoski from Wolf Point. Current WWAMI students, KayCee Gardner, Timothy Hatlen, Abby Kelly, Jens Olsgaard, and Eve Preus were a great addition to the discussion panels.

Friday evening festivities included an opening reception with Doctor Ron Loge of Dillon moderating a panel of teaching physicians who reflected on teaching WWAMI students.

Saturday sessions included a presentation on PCMH and Teaching by WRITE Preceptor and Medical Director of Quality Performance, Family Care Network, Doctor Bertha Safford of Ferndale, WA and the evening’s key note speaker, Doctor Douglas Pauw, who gave a poignant presentation on What Matters Most, Patients’ Stories.

The Saturday and Sunday workshops were hosted by UW SOM teaching faculty, including TRUST and WRITE chairs, and current WWAMI students in the TRUST and WRITE programs. Topics included:

- What Creates a Good Learning Experience?
- Teaching in the Outpatient Clinic
The MMA Health Care Plan and Trust is addressing the needs of member physicians, their families, their employees and their employees’ families.

“We created a competitive, self funded and self governed health insurance plan for our MMA members, their families and their employees – health insurance for doctors, by doctors.”

—J. Bruce Robertson, M.D., MMA HCPT Board Chair

Many Benefit Plans Available

• Comprehensive and High Deductible Health Plans
• Vision
• Dental
• Personalized Service
• Practical Options

Designed by Physicians for Physicians

Please contact MMA HCPT for more information and an application packet

Marcy McLean, Account Executive
2021 Eleventh Avenue, #3, Helena, MT 59601, (866) 339-7245
e-mail: mmclean@mmaoffice.org, http://www.mmaoffice.org/MMAHCPT_intro.htm
**The Doctors Company Announces 2012 Membership Dividend**

The Doctors Company, the nation’s largest insurer of physician and surgeon medical liability, announces a $21 million dividend which is made possible by the excellent claims experience of our members. Since 1976, The Doctors Company has paid $228 million in dividends to its members. The 2012 dividend credit, approved by The Doctors Company’s Board of Governors, will provide a premium reduction of 12 percent to eligible members in Montana.

Dividend percentages are based on the loss experience of individual states. 2012 marks the sixth consecutive year that the company has awarded dividends. Dividend distributions will appear as premium credits effective with renewals beginning July 1, 2012. Eligible members of select specialty societies may also receive a dividend. Societies receiving the dividend benefit include the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American College of Physicians, and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons®.

--Founded by doctors for doctors in 1976, The Doctors Company (www.thedoctors.com) has 71,000 members and $4 billion in assets, and is rated A by both A.M. Best Company and Fitch Ratings.

---

**Specific Estate Planning Concerns for Physicians**

This is part two of a two part article regarding generally what constitutes an “estate plan,” what it should accomplish, and some of the risks or misuses of various planning techniques. Part one addressed what an estate plan is in general, what assets a Will does and does not control, and some of the basics of trusts. In this article, we address a few specific issues that may be of interest to physicians.

**Are there ways to protect my assets from creditors?**

Yes, and many of them are quite simple. In very general terms, IRAs, 401Ks, certain portions of life insurance benefits, a portion (generally $250,000) of your personal residence if you have filed a Homestead Declaration, and assets that are transferred to certain trusts are protected to varying degrees from creditors. It should be noted that any transfer to protect assets from a creditor should be completed before the liability you seek protection from exists.

**What about property in my non-residence state?**

Each asset needs to be individually considered and addressed in your estate plan. For example, owing real estate in your non-resident state can require an additional probate administration – resulting in additional attorney fees and delays. With relatively simple planning this can be avoided.

**Do I need to worry about estate and gift tax?**

For federal purposes, and in very general terms, each person can transfer (either during life, at death, or a combination) $5,000,000 without recognizing any estate or gift tax. However, this amount is set to be reduced to $1,000,000 on December 31, 2012. Beyond this threshold a transfer is taxable at rates historically as high as 55% (currently 35%). Further, while Montana does not have a state estate or gift tax, other states do. Rest assured that any state with such a tax will attempt to collect it if you have assets in that state. With proper planning, assets well in excess of the $5,000,000 threshold can be transferred tax-free.

**What about my relatives?**

The current and potential future situation of each person to receive assets from your estate should be considered. For example, if a person is receiving, or may in the future receive, government assistance, special planning will need to be undertaken. If not properly addressed the assets passing to such an individual are essentially being wasted – the person will lose government assistance until the assets you have provided them are exhausted. With proper planning the assets can be made available to the individual without disqualifying him/her from government assistance.

Further, certain events, such as young age, substance abuse problems, divorces, second-marriages of surviving spouses can, and should be, addressed in a proper estate plan.
Why should you attend this meeting?

- Learn about HealthShare Montana and how we’re among the states that are leading the nation in health information exchange.
- Learn how HealthShare Montana can help you attain Meaningful Use.
- Find out which healthcare organizations in Montana are already participating in the health information exchange.
- Learn about the MT BC/BS Patient-Centered Medical Home project.
- See a demonstration of the Challenge Theme 5/i2b2 project (research and analytics).
- Learn about the Consumer Innovation Challenge project (patient portal into the health information exchange).
- See the new “face” of HealthShare Montana.
- Hear about the second release of grant funding available for critical access hospital electronic infrastructure improvement.

Visit our website at www.healthsharemontana.org to register for the meeting. If you have questions or want more information, please call Marcy Johnson at (406) 794-0170.

---HealthShare Montana

Diagnostic Errors: What, Me Worry?

Despite dramatic advances in the quality and availability of diagnostic tests, diagnostic errors remain a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality. There is growing recognition that physician factors like fatigue and resource or time constraints contribute to these poor but avoidable outcomes.

A study of consecutive malpractice claims at The Doctors Company, the nation’s largest insurer of physician and surgeon medical liability, from 2000 to 2007 revealed that over 50 percent of claims were related to diagnosis. Of that amount, more than 75 percent were due to failure to diagnose.

Overall, diagnostic errors account for nearly half of all malpractice claims in nonsurgical specialties. One of the most frequently cited process errors is management of test results. Most breakdowns in the diagnostic process occur because of failure to order an appropriate diagnostic test, create a proper follow-up plan, and obtain an adequate history or perform an adequate physical examination. Breakdowns also include incorrect interpretation of diagnostic tests.

Review the following tips to refresh your diagnostic process.

1. Practice by standards: Organize yourself with routines and checklists.
   - Document all encounters.
   - Develop and document a plan of care for each patient.
   - Ensure an adequate history and physical are completed and recorded.
   - Maintain a medication list for each patient and update the list at each visit.

2. Involve the patient and family when appropriate.
   - Give clear, written follow-up instructions.
   - Include the patient and family in the “redundancy process.” Tell them: “We will call you with your lab results. If you don’t hear from me or my office staff within 10 business days about your lab report, call the office at [number].”
   - Communicate! The more open and transparent the...
AMA Resources Help Physicians Take Charge of their Data

Public and private health insurers are increasingly using physician data to drive their decision-making processes on new payment methodologies, network design, patient education, and health services availability and delivery. In addition, they are using performance data to rate the quality and efficiency of physicians. Three resources from the AMA are designed to help physicians access these data and strategically use them to improve practice efficiency and delivery of care, as well as ensure that payers and other reporting bodies are not misusing the information.

Take Charge of Your Data is a guidebook designed to help physicians understand and verify the accuracy of complex physician data reports used to profile physicians. The guidebook was created to be used in tandem with the AMA’s “Standardized Physician Data Report,” which provides a uniform format for displaying physician data. Used together, these resources provide physicians with a roadmap to understanding how to use the payer-provided data to verify the accuracy of their profiles and assist them in providing exemplary care to their patients. Additionally, through the creation of the “Guidelines for Reporting Physician Data,” the AMA is working to improve the quality and utility of physician data reports.

Visit www.ama-assn.org/go/physician data to access these resources and find additional information on how to use these exciting tools.

--AMA Practice Management Alert

Champions for Quality 2012

The MMA along with MHA/MHREF have partnered with Brian Wong, M.D., MPH, CEO of the Bedside Trust www.bedsidetrust.com, for the 2012 Champions for Quality-Patient Driven Leadership conference.

Doctor Wong’s proven techniques provides the skills needed to build unified, take-charge problem-solving teams that can confront the key quality challenges we face in Montana while keeping the patient in the center of that care.

Champions for Quality 2012 convenes at four locations and includes rural and urban providers.

The first part of this program will focus on establishing a patient-driven leadership practice. This unique one-day session will enable participants to problem-solve with regional peers. It is based on the premise that by establishing a shared, patient-centered leadership practice, providers will better address specific, local needs, while elevating system-wide quality. Registration is required for this portion. Each regional meeting is followed by a 90-minute “coaching” Webinar with a statewide Webinar scheduled for September 11 to review regional team progress.

Part one will be held in June and July at four locations:

- June 25 at the Hope Education Center in the Sletten Cancer Institute, Great Falls, with the coaching Webinar on July 17.
- June 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, with the coaching Webinar on July 19.
- July 24 at the Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center at the Billings Clinic, with the coaching Webinar on August 14.
- July 26 in the Meadowlark Meeting Room at the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital with the coaching Webinar on August 15.

The registration fee for the conference is $65 per participant. A limited number of lodging and locum scholarships are available. Contact Carol Bischoff by email at carol@mtha.org for more information. Online registration is available at www.regonline.com/Champions2012 or by requesting a brochure from Jennifer Wagner in the MHA office.

This Live activity, 2012 Champions for Quality- Patient Driven Leadership, from June 25, 2012 to July 26, 2012 has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 5 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

MHA is also an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Montana Nurses Association, an accredited approved by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. Part 1 is eligible for 5 contact hours.

--Carol Bischoff, Montana Hospital Association

Physician Award Nominations

Due July 1

Recognizing Outstanding Members and Individuals Contributing to the Physician Community

The MMA is accepting nominations for two distinct awards that recognize and honor individuals who have made important contributions to the advancement of the physician profession and whose actions have led to the betterment of health care in Montana.

The Award of Merit, established in 1975, honors individuals whose actions have led to the betterment of health care in Montana.
Qualifications:
- A commitment to service;
- Dedicated to patient health care; and
- Substantive involvement in community, state or national policy efforts with a focus on improving health care delivery or the general health status of Montanans.

The Doctor Jack McMahon Service to Montana Physicians Award recognizes individuals who have made important contributions to the advancement of the physician profession.

Qualifications:
- Demonstrated commitment to the physician profession through actions taken to promote the profession while collaborating with other physicians to protect the patient-physician relationship; and
- An advocate of the interests of patients.

Nominees for either award do not need to be a physician or currently employed in a health care field and should have a current or past relationship with the MMA. Award nomination forms can be found online at www.mmaoffice.org and will be accepted until July 1, 2012. Recipients will be honored at the Annual Meeting in September.

Regulatory Changes for Written Prescriptions

The Montana Board of Pharmacy enacted new rules regarding written prescriptions and ask physicians to familiarize themselves with the new requirements. ARM 24.174.510, can be found on the website at: http://www.mrules.org/gateway/RuleNo. asp?RN=24%2E174%2E510. These rules apply to all written prescriptions for any drug or device.

These rules provide that if a prescription is written, it must contain the prescriber’s hand-written signature and the name of the prescriber stamped, typed, printed or clearly handwritten in addition to the signature. The rules further provide that written prescriptions must be on tamper resistant paper which contains characteristics to prevent the unauthorized copying of the prescription, prevent the erasure or modification of prescription information, and prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms. Tamper resistant paper that is certified as “Medicaid Compliant” meets the intent and requirement of these rules.

All written prescriptions for controlled substances shall be dated as of, and signed on the day when issued and shall bear the full name and address of the patient, the drug name, strength, dosage form, quantity prescribed, directions for use, and name, address and registration number of the practitioner. A practitioner may sign a paper prescription in the same manner as he/she would sign a check or legal document. Paper prescriptions shall be written with ink or indelible pencil, typewriter, or printed on a computer printer, and shall be manually signed by the practitioner. A computer generated prescription that is printed out or faxed by the practitioner must be manually signed.

A prescription may be prepared by the secretary or agent for the signature of a practitioner, but the prescribing practitioner is responsible in case the prescription does not conform in all essential respects to the law and regulations. A corresponding liability rests upon the pharmacist who fills a prescription not prepared in the form prescribed by Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state rules. A pharmacist may add missing prescription information (address of patient, DEA number of Practitioner) in order to ensure that the prescription conforms in all essential aspects to rule and regulation.

A pharmacist may dispense a controlled substance listed in Schedule II only pursuant to a written prescription signed by a practitioner. There are exceptions for emergency situations and facsimile prescriptions may be accepted for long term care facility (LTCF) and hospice patients.

A pharmacist may dispense a controlled substance listed in Schedule III, IV, or V only pursuant to either a paper prescription signed by a practitioner, a facsimile of a signed paper prescription transmitted by the practitioner or the practitioner’s agent to the pharmacy, or an oral prescription made by an individual practitioner and promptly reduced to writing by the pharmacist containing all information required except for the signature of the practitioner.

If you have questions or require more information, please contact the Montana Board of Pharmacy at roklein@mt.gov or (406) 841-2371.

--Ronald J. Klein, RPh, Executive Director, Montana Board of Pharmacy

MTMedPAC Candidate Support

The Montana Medical Association’s Political Action Committee, MTMedPAC, has contributed to the election of over forty state legislators. These state legislators, listed below, were endorsed by MTMedPAC in recognition of decisions made and work completed during the 62nd session of the Montana legislature for the common good of all health care patients and physicians. The decisions included support for tort reform measures and adequate reimbursement to physicians. Learn more about how these legislators voted by accessing the MMA 2011 Legislative Scorecard found at www.mmaoffice.org.

Scott M. Reichner - Bigfork, HD 09
Elsie Arntzen - Billings, SD 27
Douglas Kary - Billings, HD 48
Tom Burnett - Bozeman, HD 63
Gordon Vance - Bozeman, HD 67
Ted Washburn - Bozeman, HD 69
Rob Cook - Brady, HD 27
Roy Hollandsworth - Brady, HD 28
Lee Randall - Broadus, HD 39
Lila J. Evans - Browning, HD 16
Ryan Osmundson - Buffalo, HD 29
Sterling Small - Busby, HD 41
Duane Ankney - Colstrip, HD 43
Austin Knudsen - Culbertson, HD 36
Debby Barrett - Dillon, SD 36
Steve Gibson - East Helena, HD 78
Mike Cuffe - Eureka, HD 02
Edward Greef - Florence, HD 90
Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr - Glendale, SD 19
Steve Fitzpatrick - Great Falls, HD 20
Brian Hoven - Great Falls, HD 24
Cleve Loney - Great Falls, HD 25
Pat Connell - Hamilton, HD 87
Ron Ehli - Hamilton, HD 88
Kris Hansen - Havre, HD 33
Wendy Warburton - Havre, HD 34
Liz Bangerter - Helena, HD 80
Mike Miller - Helmlsie, HD 84
Jonathan McNiven - Huntley, HD 44
Joanne G. Blyton - Joliet, HD 59
MMA Directory Available

Get your 2012 MMA Directory of Montana Physicians today. New this year, the Directory includes a physician assistants section.

The MMA has a limited supply of the 2012 Directory of Montana Physicians. Members of the MMA are provided one copy of the Directory at no charge. If you have any questions, please contact the MMA by telephone at 877/443.4000 or email tmccormack@mmaoffice.org.

MMA Welcomes New Members!

Cascade County Medical Society
Engbrecht, David R.  Great Falls
Legan, James B.  Great Falls
Violett, Jodi L.  Great Falls

Eastern MT Medical Society
Klein, Linda R.  Sidney

Flathead County Medical Society
Bishop, Frank S.  Kalispell
Fortenberry, David M.  Kalispell
Gardner, Cameron T.  Columbia Falls

Gallatin County Medical Society
Ecklund, Steven R.  Bozeman
Meier, Albert P.  Bozeman

Lewis and Clark Medical Society
Harper, William J.  Helena
Sticht, Jeanne W.  Helena

Ninepipe Medical Society
Patterson, James L.  Superior
Smith, Adam T.  Polson

Northeastern MT Medical Society
Helland, Don E.  Culbertson

Silver Bow County Medical Society
Chacko, Anna K.  Butte

Western Montana Medical Society
Koehn, Nerissa  Missoula
Richards, Timothy B.  Missoula

Yellowstone Valley Medical Society
Balding, Carmen  Billings
Boslough, James G.  Billings
Brewer, Cynthia K.  Billings
Buchan, James E.  Billings
Freitag, Corby C.  Billings
Kirkland, Brenda G.  Billings
Kominsky, John M.  Billings
Littlefield, Megan B.  Billings
Parker, Douglas J.  Billings
Theade, Kathi H.  Billings

MMA Membership: Participation Crucial

Thank you for your membership, as you know the Montana Medical Association is the guardian of your profession and everyone’s involvement is crucial for a united voice in Montana. Please encourage your colleagues to renew or join today. Online Payment is available for their convenience. Physicians can join/renew their dues instantly online at: www.mmaoffice.org, it is easy and secure. Encourage your peers to unite with the MMA.

MMA’s Valuable Resource

Your Association offers another beneficial tool to keep you informed of regulatory happenings, health policy news and Association activities with our semi-monthly newsletter, MMA Rounds. You will find each issue timely and a valuable source of information on issues of your physician profession.

Watch your inbox for the next issue by looking for “MMA Rounds” in the subject line. If you have yet to receive this newsletter or have news to share in the MMA Rounds or the MMA BULLETIN please contact Jean Branscum at jean@mmaoffice.org.
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is giving incentive payments to eligible professionals, hospitals, and critical access hospitals that demonstrate meaningful use of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology.

**Incentive payments will include:**

- Up to $44,000 for eligible professionals in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program
- Up to $63,750 for eligible professionals in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program
- A base payment of $2 million for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals, depending on certain factors

**Get started today!** To maximize your Medicare EHR incentive payment you need to begin participating in 2012; Medicaid EHR incentive payments are also highest in the first year of participation.

**Register NOW to receive your maximum incentive.**

For more information and to register, visit:

[www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms)

For additional resources and support in adopting certified EHR technology, visit the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC):

Gift Items

- 2012 MMA Directory of Montana Physicians (members one issue @ no charge)
  $40.00 Prepaid Members
  $60.00 Prepaid Nonmembers

- MMA Sterling Silver Bison Pins, $14.00

- Gold-Filled Cross Pen & Pencil Set with MMA Logo, $125.00

- Centennial Books: “First 100 Years”
  $35.00 (numbered edition)
  $17.50 (regular edition)

- “Petticoat & Stethoscope, A Montana Legend”
  $4.00

Bulletin Subscription Rates

The MMA Bulletin is published quarterly by the MMA, 2021 Eleventh Avenue, Suite 1, Helena, Montana 59601.

The annual subscription rate for nonmembers of the MMA is $25.00/year in the United States. To subscribe, contact the MMA Executive Office at (406) 443-4000 or by email at mma@mmaoffice.org.

The MMA Bulletin retains editorial privileges relative to submitted articles and advertisements.

© 2012, Montana Medical Association

Jean Branscum, Executive Vice President
Carter E. Beck, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer

Physician Recognition Award

Congratulations to the following MMA members who have recently renewed/received the AMA Physician Recognition Award, a commitment to excellence in continuing medical education.

Dennis W. Dietrich, M.D., Great Falls
Antonio Santin, M.D., Great Falls

In Memory of our MMA Members

Robert E. Asmussen, M.D.
Robert E. Asmussen, M.D., of Great Falls, passed away March 19 at the age of 93. Doctor Asmussen was a member of this Association through the Cascade County Medical Society since 1957. Doctor Asmussen received his medical degree from Oregon Health Science University School of Medicine. We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Doctor Asmussen.

Derrick L. Johnson, M.D.
Derrick L. Johnson, M.D., of Butte, passed away May 8, at the age of 37. Doctor Johnson was a member of this Association through the Silver Bow County Medical Society since 2011. Doctor Johnson received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Doctor Johnson.

Continue Receiving your Bulletin in your Mailbox or your Inbox...

The MMA Bulletin has been changed to quarterly issues and are be delivered to members only as a membership benefit.

Current issues of the MMA Bulletin will be available on our website and then subsequently archived within our members-only area. To view past issues, visit www.mmaoffice.org/membersarea/index.html.

Please provide your name and most current email address your next issue will arrive to the destination of your choice.

Name ______________________________________

E-Mail ______________________________________

Address __________________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________

Telephone __________________________________

Credit Card Number _________________________

Expiration Date __________   Total Charge ______

Publication         Choice         Delivery
Electronic MMA Bulletin ______ InBox/no cost
Printed MMA BULLETIN ____ Nonmembers $25/per year
Printed MMA BULLETIN ____ MMA member/no cost

Return to the MMA via email at mma@mmaoffice.org or by fax 406-443-4042. Thank you!
COMING MEETINGS IN MONTANA

JUNE 20-23: MONTANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS PRIMARY CARE CONFERENCE. RED LODGE. ROCK CREEK CONFERENCE CENTER. CONTACT LINDA EDQUEST AT (406) 431-9384 OR BY EMAIL AT LINDA@MONTANAAFP.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

JUNE 25: CHAMPIONS FOR QUALITY PATIENT DRIVEN LEADERSHIP. GREAT FALLS. BENEFIS HEALTH CENTER. CONTACT JENNIFER WAGNER AT (406) 442-1911 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MTHA.ORG.

JUNE 27: CHAMPIONS FOR QUALITY PATIENT DRIVEN LEADERSHIP. MISSOULA. ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL. CONTACT JENNIFER WAGNER AT (406) 442-1911 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MTHA.ORG.

JULY 24: CHAMPIONS FOR QUALITY PATIENT DRIVEN LEADERSHIP. BILLINGS. BILLINGS CLINIC. CONTACT JENNIFER WAGNER AT (406) 442-1911 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MTHA.ORG.

JULY 26: CHAMPIONS FOR QUALITY PATIENT DRIVEN LEADERSHIP. BOZEMAN. BOZEMAN DEACONESS HOSPITAL. CONTACT JENNIFER WAGNER AT (406) 442-1911 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MTHA.ORG.

JULY 26-29: MONTANA OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION’S PRIMARY CARE ROUNDUP. BOZEMAN. HILTON GARDEN INN. CONTACT (406) 255-8440 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.BILLINGSCLINIC.ORG/CME.

SEPTEMBER 7-8: 134TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MMA AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HELENA. CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE AT (877) 443-4000 OR BY EMAIL AT MMA@MMAOFFICE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR MEETING LISTED HERE AND ON THE MMA’S ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR EMAIL TAMMY@MMAOFFICE.ORG.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
(Accepted from physicians only)

Limited to 25 words or less - $25 Per ad per issue (nonmembers) ~ $20 Per ad per issue (members)

FUN, FABULOUS,FLEXIBLE FAMILY PRACTICE
Seeking Studious Primary Care Doctor To Immunize, Inspire and Independently, Heal and Establish Healthy Relationships, Family Practice Clinic, Great Falls, Contact 406-727-5778 or 406-452-8688

FAMILY PHYSICIAN WANTED
Bozeman Acute Care Clinic. Full time position with a mix of weekdays (9a-8p) and weekends/holidays (9a-5p). Respond with CV to Dona Anderson-Gonzalez at 120 N. 19th, Ste A, Bozeman, MT 59718
No one goes into medicine anticipating a lawsuit, but in the course of providing advanced health care, it can happen. UMIA offers more than just professional liability protection; our physicians enjoy the highest quality coverage and a steadfast commitment to helping them keep their promise.

www.umia.com
2012 Online Coding Webinars

Presented by the Montana Medical Association and Brown Consulting Associates, Inc.

Coding training without leaving the office!

Webinars Offered Throughout 2012

These seminars are live telecommunication classes designed for coders and billers working in health centers and doctors’ offices to further their education related to coding, documentation and billing.

Course Levels
- 100 Diagnosis (ICD-9-CM) Coding
- 300 Special Coding Topics
- 400 Modifiers
- 600 Coding for Specialties
- 700 Third Party Payer Issues

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
Participants earn one CEU for each hour of class attendance. Additional CEUs may be earned by completing an optional post-course assessment. Full details will be included in the course materials.

Cost
Each course is $189 and includes 2-3 hours of instruction. Price includes one phone connection and one internet connection.

Details
Courses are 2 or 3 hours in length and combine web-based learning with live teleconference lectures. You will need an internet-ready computer and a speakerphone or headset to participate.

Instructors
Bonnie R. Hoag, RN, CCS-P
Shawn R. Hafer, CCS-P, CPC
Donna Monroe, CCS-P, CPC
Dana Fox, CCS, CCS-P, CPC

Brown Consulting instructors are certified by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC).

Brown Consulting Associates has been providing physician coding consulting since 1989. They conduct seminars for several State and Primary Care Associations. Over the past ten years, BCA has been preparing students for certification through various professional associations and the College of Southern Idaho.

For detailed class information and schedules contact:
Montana Medical Association, at (877) 443-4000, (406) 443-4000 (outside Montana), email mma@mmaoffice.org or visit our website at www.mmaoffice.org

Refresh your coding knowledge through our web-based seminars!