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Featured Article

Value-Based Care MMA Group Update

For the last 18 months, the MMA has participated in roundtable discussions with DPHHS and the primary care community to provide feedback about value-based care models for the purpose of informing the design of the new primary care model adopted by DPHHS for Medicaid recipients. Primary Care MT (the new DPHHS program) plays an important role in supporting primary care practices in their transition to value-based care. As healthcare continues to evolve, physicians are increasingly asked to move beyond fee-for-service models toward approaches that prioritize quality, outcomes, and total cost of care. That work may include care coordination, care management and managing transitions of care and Primary Care MT includes financial support for these additional activities. [Read more](#)

Advocacy

2025 AMA Prior Authorization Physician Survey Results

Despite last summer's widely publicized insurer pledge to improve prior authorization, new survey data from the American Medical Association (AMA) show physicians are pervasively skeptical that meaningful change will occur—reflecting years of similar commitments that have failed to produce lasting improvements. AMA (6/13) [Read more](#)

The Medical Frailty Exemption from Medicaid Work Requirements: Key Issues to Watch for in Upcoming CMS Guidance

The 2025 reconciliation law requires states to condition Medicaid eligibility for adults in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion group and enrollees in partial expansion waiver programs (Georgia and Wisconsin) on meeting work requirements starting January 1, 2027 or sooner at state option. KFF (5/27) [Read more](#)

Final Rules for Medicaid Work Requirements Are Out. Here's What You Need To Know

The Trump administration has issued final rules on how states should ensure that millions of Medicaid enrollees prove they're working or completing other activities, such as job training, volunteering, or being enrolled in an educational program. KFF (6/12) [Read more](#)

Montana DPHHS Publishes Forms for Community Engagement Reporting and Exclusions

These resources from Montana DPHHS provide information about Montana Medicaid Expansion Community Engagement requirements, including participation expectations, available exclusions, reporting responsibilities, and acceptable verification documentation. [Read more](#)

- [Community Engagement Requirements Flyer](#)
 - [Exclusion Information Flyer](#)
 - [Appendix A: Medicaid Community Engagement Activity Requirements Reporting Form](#)
 - [Application Appendix B: Community Engagement Exclusions Form](#)
 - [Redetermination Appendix B: Community Engagement Exclusions Form](#)
 - [Verification Matrix](#)
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Education

Shingles Vaccine May Offer Protection Against Dementia

A [study](#) published in the Annals of Internal Medicine “indicates 1 in 17 dementia cases could possibly be prevented by shingles vaccination.” The study shows “patients in nursing facilities who had received at least one dose of the shingles vaccine within a year of admission had a 5.8% lower risk of developing dementia over the next four years, according to health records of more than 509,000 people, ages 66 and older, who had been admitted to U.S. nursing facilities from 2017 through 2022.” (6/28) NBC News [Read more](#)

CDC Releases New Vaccine Panel Charter

A new charter from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices "substantially refocuses the responsibilities of the committee, downplaying its role in recommending the use of new vaccines and giving it responsibility to assess alternatives for disease prevention." Posted on Thursday to the CDC's website, the new charter "stipulates that the panel as a whole should 'represent a balanced range of scientific, clinical, and public health expertise relevant to the Committee's mission' – a broad umbrella under which people with little experience in vaccines or vaccination policy might conceivably fit." (6/25) STAT [Read more](#)

Events

The poster features a background image of a hand holding a stethoscope over a mountain landscape. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, "2026 ANNUAL MEETING" is written in orange. Below that, "Smarter Care, Stronger Communities" is in large green letters, followed by "Physician-Led Innovation for Montana" in orange. In the bottom left is the MMA logo (Montana Medical Association) with a caduceus. In the bottom right, the dates and location "October 2-3, 2026 Great Northern Hotel Helena, Montana" are listed in green.

**2026
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Smarter Care,
Stronger Communities**

Physician-Led Innovation for Montana

MMA
MONTANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**October 2-3, 2026
Great Northern Hotel
Helena, Montana**

2026 MMA Annual Meeting

Don't miss the expanded 2026 Annual Meeting! We are excited to hold the 2026 MMA Annual Meeting October 2-3, 2026, at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena, Montana.

Help us recognize the outstanding physicians and leaders who make a difference in Montana healthcare. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Award of

Merit, the Doctor Jack McMahon Service to Montana Physicians Award, and the Legacy of Leadership Award.

To learn more about the Annual Meeting and nominate a deserving colleague for one of these prestigious awards, visit the Annual Meeting [webpage](#). We look forward to celebrating with you this October! [Learn more](#)

Programs

Healthcare Excellence in Leadership Program

We invite you to apply for the 2026/2027 MMA Healthcare Excellence in Leadership Program, our 13th year of empowering Montana's healthcare leaders!

The Montana Medical Association Healthcare Excellence in Leadership Program brings physicians and health care professionals from across Montana together for five sessions to learn how they can lead, inspire, and influence real change. This in-depth course is designed to enhance the leadership skills of health care providers, so you can play a larger role in your practices and attain the knowledge and opportunities necessary to influence Montana health care.

With limited participant spots, we want physicians to have the first opportunity to apply. [Learn more](#)



An advertisement for MICA's 50th anniversary. It features the MICA logo in blue and yellow, followed by '50 YEARS' in large yellow numbers. To the right, it says 'Medical Professional Liability Coverage for MMA Members' in blue. Below this, it reads '50 Years of Physician-Led, Member-Owned Malpractice Coverage You Can Trust' in blue. At the bottom, there is a large yellow '1976' on the left, a photo of a female doctor in a white coat with a stethoscope in the center, and a yellow button that says 'GET A QUOTE' on the right.

Past Issues of MMA Bulletin and Rounds



Previous issues of MMA Bulletin and Rounds are available on our website under the "news" tab.

Catch up on updates, advocacy highlights, and important news impacting Montana physicians, all in one convenient place. Visit our website to read the latest issue and explore past editions at your convenience. [View more](#)

Your Care is at Our Core

Physicians are Patients' Strongest Allies in Health: Every Step of the Way

Montana Medical Association has joined other state medical associations to launch a campaign to elevate physician's reputations, fight legislative battles, and amplify the patient-physician relationship.

**YOUR CARE IS
AT OUR CORE**

Montana's Physicians

In recent years physicians have faced reputational challenges brought on by broader frustrations with the healthcare system. Recognizing the need to better understand and address these challenges, the American Medical Association's Advocacy Resource Center conducted extensive opinion research and found that Americans want to see more of their physicians. 89% of national voters agree that the doctor-patient relationship is central to health care – but structural factors have habituated them to the idea that physicians are hard to schedule and that they are forced to spend too little time with them. As a result, Your Care is at Our Core was developed directly from these research findings and was created to elevate the message of what drives physicians: trust, empathy, compassion, and time caring and fighting for their patients. Since its launch in January 2024, more than half of state medical associations have chosen to participate in Your Care is at Our Core.

Learn more: <https://www.mmaoffice.org/your-care-is-at-our-core/>

Share your story: [Your Care is at our Core: Gathering Physician Stories](#)

If you are interested in sharing a testimonial to be posted on our social media platforms, please contact [Lexie Gleasman](#)

MEMBERSHIPS DUES & RENEWALS

2026 Membership: Renew Your MMA Membership

As the recognized voice of the medical profession in Montana for more than 147 years, the Montana Medical Association and local medical societies have represented Montana's physicians with a keen understanding of unique challenges facing our medical professionals. The ever-changing health care landscape is a

reality and the Montana Medical Association is prepared to keep pace with those changing realities.

What we do together, no one physician can do alone. Your membership makes a difference in strengthening the physician's voice, shaping the changing health care landscape, and advancing ambitious clinical and educational initiatives that empowers physicians and positively impacts patient care and the practice of medicine in Montana.

Have an impact through your support of the MMA where the physician voice is unified, patient centered policies are amplified, and capacity can grow to advance medical science. You can easily join or renew now below, or call (406) 443-4000.

RENEW YOUR MMA MEMBERSHIP

Managing a complex mental health case? Let's talk.

Get free psychiatric consults for Montana clinicians treating pregnant/postpartum patients or youth 0-21.

Call 844-406-8725 for a consult.



ADVOCACY REMINDERS

You can view our VoterVoice at any time to see what issues we are promoting at this [link](#).

If you wish to testify or help with advocacy efforts, please contact Leeann Sherman, and we can help coordinate. Additionally, check out our Legislative Advocacy Training video taught by SetPoint Media founder Tara Jensen, which can be viewed [here](#) with your MMA login.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 31, 2026	<u>Awards Nomination Deadline</u>	Online
September 4, 2026	<u>HELP Application Deadline</u>	Online
October 2-3, 2026	<u>MMA Annual Meeting</u>	Helena, MT

If you would like your event listed, please email the name, date, and a way to find more information to the [MMA Executive Office](#).

MMA Member Benefits

Gohagan & Company Travel Offers

Embark on an exhilarating European adventure steeped in storied history, grand architecture and breathtaking scenery on this fabulous 12-day, 11-night itinerary featuring a deluxe river cruise plus an unforgettable Swiss getaway. Discover the timeless beauty of the Rhine and Moselle as you wind past storybook towns, terraced vineyards and forested hills crowned by castles. Marvel at the sweeping grandeur of the Alps and Lake Geneva.



[Gohagan & Company – Exclusive Ocean Cruises, River Cruises, and Land Tours for Alumni, Affinity and Group Travelers](#)



**GOHAGAN
& COMPANY**

Telehealth, Secure Messaging, and More

Backline is an award-winning secure messaging and clinical communication platform that connects all of the stakeholders in a patient's journey.

Connect with patients in virtual visits and share information between your staff, family members, caretakers, and outside providers in real-time—all in a convenient, HIPAA-compliant solution.

Keep your patients engaged and your team in sync with Backline.

**We
Endorse
Telehealth**
for Our Members

Register Today!



Backline



DrFirst
Unite the Healthiverse

FREE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT DRUG CARD



CLICK HERE
to get your **FREE** card!

Montana Rx Card

This program is being provided to you to distribute to your patients to help lower their prescription drug costs. Simply distribute the FREE Prescription Drug Card below and your patients can save up to 75% (discounts average roughly 30%) at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. This card can be used as a primary plan and/or it can be used on prescriptions not covered by other plans. This program also includes other value-added programs, which will be listed on the card. This card is pre-activated and can be used immediately.

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