



Section News



March 2024

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General news

Don't miss out – funding available from two programs

Approximately 5,000 members have not yet claimed their CME reimbursement for the 2023/24 program year. AMA members are entitled to a \$2,200 benefit for CME expenses incurred between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

Physicians have until March 31 to use their CME allotment and will have until April 30 to submit their claims to the AMA for reimbursement. Last year, we returned approximately \$3.8 million in unused allotments to government and we are on track to return even more if members don't take advantage of CME benefits.

For more information – including tips on how to make an easy and quick CME claim – please visit the [CME webpage](#) on the AMA website. For CME-related assistance, please email CME@albertadoctors.org or call 780-482-0324, toll free 1-866-714-5724.

The Panel Management Support Program (PMSP) is a temporary program, funded by Alberta Health, which provides eligible physicians financial support for costs related to panel management and practice improvement activities. This funding was announced in October 2023 when the [MAPS](#) final panel reports were released.

Participating in panel management and utilizing support staff in practice improvement activities will help physicians maximize their payments for the PMSP. Physicians that leverage [CII/CPAR](#) to manage their panels will be automatically eligible for [additional funding](#). If you have questions about the program, please review the [PMSP Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Provide your input on working with WCB-Alberta

The AMA is seeking member input in anticipation of negotiations with the Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta. We want to hear about your experiences working with WCB-Alberta, including thoughts regarding recent changes; concerns, conflicts and challenges; opportunities for improved process; and anything else that we could bring forward to the negotiating table when we meet.

You can get in touch with us at wcbnegotiations@albertadoctors.org. Please respond by April 15.

Thank a colleague! JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program

The JPAC Shine On Gratitude Program gives physicians the opportunity to thank their colleagues for their acts of kindness, big and small. The process is as quick and easy as sending an email.

Complete the [submission form](#) and we will make sure the message gets to the person you want to express your appreciation to.

Section of Emergency Medicine

Updates

We know there have been issues with the implementation of Good Faith claims. We have sent a letter and spoken directly to the Minister of Health about the difficulties in the implementation process and getting compensated. We are trying to remove the barriers to this process.

We know that lack of after-hours support in hospital is a huge issue and continue to work with the AMA and government to increase after-hours compensation to stabilize this process and increase supports for consultants to keep the inpatient process supported. We are also trying to get weekend evenings/nights and stat evening/nights compensated differently than other evenings/nights.

Volumes remain high due to population growth and lack of primary care. This will hopefully improve with primary care stabilization.

To reach the Section of Emergency Medicine President, Dr. Arun Abbi, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of General Surgery

Save the date – AAGS, Review in the Rockies 2024

Date: October 25-27, 2024

Location: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

Further details to follow.

To reach the Section of General Surgery President, Dr. Lloyd Mack, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Laboratory Physicians

Updates

Laboratory Physician's Contracts - After a long negotiation and mediation process, the Laboratory Physicians finally signed their contracts with Alberta

Precision Laboratories (APL) in March 2024. The new contracts start from April 1, 2024, and will go until March 31, 2026.

The Joint Workload Advisory Committee (JWAC) - The JWAC that was negotiated during the mediation officially commenced with its first meeting in March 2024. The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Marcia Abbott (ASLP-Red Deer) and Dr. Michael Mengel (APL-Edmonton). The ASLP members on the committee are Dr. Kate O'Conner (Calgary), Dr. Stewart Brown (Edmonton) and Dr. Kathleen Wong (Edmonton), and the APL members are Dr. Heidi Paulin (Red Deer), Dr. Paul Klonski (Calgary) and Dr. Erene Farag (Edmonton).

Seeking Executive Committee Members, AMA Section of Laboratory Physicians (ASLP)

This is an early announcement that ASLP is seeking volunteers to join the ASLP Executive Committee starting October 2024. There are two openings that will be available:

- Member at Large – Edmonton/North Zone
- President Elect – Calgary/South Zone

This is an active committee that represents, supports and advocates for laboratory physicians. The committee meets monthly for one hour via Zoom, and topic specific discussions are often ongoing via e-mail. The members bring in their constituents' concerns and the committee members are committed to try and resolve them, many times with the support of AMA staff.

The election for these positions will take place at the Annual General Meeting during the [Banff Pathology Course](#) on October 11 at the Banff Centre of Arts and Creativity.

If you are interested, please send your inquiry to:

- Dr. Todd Chaba (Edmonton/North zone)
- Dr. Christopher Naugler (Calgary/South Zone)
- Dr. Humaira Khanam (North or South Zone)
- Or through AMA Section Services at Section.Services@albertadoctors.org

Save the date – Banff Pathology Course

The main topic this year is Neuroendocrine Pathology/Neoplasms.

Date: October 9-12,

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

Registration now open

To reach the Section of Laboratory Physicians President, Dr. Humaira Khanam, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Neurosurgery

Save the date – Section of Neurosurgery Annual General Meeting (in-person)

Dates: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Banff Springs Hotel

Notice of the Annual General Meeting and proposed changes to the Section of Neurosurgery bylaws were sent to section members March 12.

To reach the Section of Neurosurgery President, Dr. Andrew Nataraj, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Save the date – Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium

Date: September 6-7, 2024

Location: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

The Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology are pleased to invite you to the Alberta GYN Endoscopy Symposium (AGES). This 1.5-day symposium serves as a vital platform for medical professionals to exchange knowledge and discuss best practices and advancements in our field. The event creates opportunities for networking, socializing and exploring career prospects. Registration opens April 17, 2024.

Registration costs are \$200 for trainees and \$350 for residents.

For detailed information, please visit our conference website - [AGES Conference Website](#).

We encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues or trainees who might be interested in partaking.

To reach the Section of Obstetrics and Gynecology President, Dr. Cameron Sklar, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Occupational Medicine

Occupational Medicine Conference (in-person or virtual)

Date: Friday, April 12, 2024

Location: Lister Centre (Glacier Room), University of Alberta, 87 Ave. and 116 St., Edmonton

Registration: [View further details, the conference schedule and register.](#)

The Section of Occupational Medicine is sponsoring an Occupational Medicine Conference on Friday, April 12, 2024. The conference may be attended virtually (Zoom) or in-person at Lister Centre (Glacier Room), at the University of Alberta.

This Occupational Medicine Conference has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 6 Mainpro+ credits.

To reach the Section of Occupational Medicine President, Dr. Sebastian Straube, please email [AMA Section Services](#).

Section of Pediatrics

Updates

Section Grants - A reminder that applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Section of Pediatrics Grants. More information, as well as the application form, can be found at [AMA Section of Pediatrics grants](#). **The deadline for the submission of applications is midnight on April 1.**

Billing Codes - We are currently working on a cheat sheet for billing codes that will be sent out to section members once it is finished. In addition to working on improved billing codes, we are continuing to advocate on multiple issues including proxy access on Connect Care, increased pediatric lab access, PUF funding and gender affirming care. If you have any questions, please contact the Section Executive via email at [AMA Section Services](#).

Save the date – 47th American Academy of Pediatrics Conference Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, June 20-23, 2024 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

This conference will provide information on recent advances in the delivery room management of neonates, along with talks on neonatal stroke and HIE, and up-to-date information on the long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of premature infants. Additionally, the conference will cover nutrition in neonates and explore

new developments in the field of nutrition in neonatology to improve the outcomes of our tiniest newborns. This conference will offer an opportunity to meet world-renowned speakers in their particular areas and provide a chance to network for future research.

For a list of registration fees, to view the detailed schedule and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

To reach the Section of Pediatrics President, Dr. Sam Wong, please email [AMA Section Services](#).



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