

December 2023 – MAFP News & Events

We've Got CME For You!

Do you need a few CME credits by the end of the year? Take advantage of MAFP's CME articles published in the April-June 2023 and October-December 2023 issues of the *Missouri Family Physician*. Claiming your CME is free and easy; just read the articles and complete the application for CME. Instructions for how to claim CME is listed in each issue. We will report it to AAFP for you! Questions? Contact Bill Plank at bpplank@mo-afp.org.

3 CME Credits Available in the Pain Management Issue
1 CME Credit Available in the Population Health Through Immunizations Issue

Missouri Preceptor Tax Credits Now Available

As you know, the MAFP worked to successfully pass the Community-Based Faculty Preceptor Tax Credit program in 2022. This program, administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC), provides an income tax credit for qualified community-based faculty preceptors for primary care physicians and physician assistants.

To be eligible for the \$1,000 tax credit, you must precept a primary care medical student or physician assistant for at least 120 hours, and cannot be compensated for precepting. You can receive up to three \$1,000 tax credits. Tax credit will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the funding is depleted (\$200,000).

Submit your application electronically through the **Community-Based Faculty Preceptor Tax Credit Program Application**. The deadline to submit your application is January 31 of each calendar year following the tax year in which the tax credit application is being submitted. Access the proposed rule **19 CSR 20-70.010 Community-Based Faculty Preceptor Tax Credit**, to review the waiver application submission and selection process.

Virtual CME in 2024

MAFP will deliver monthly virtual CME sessions for our members from January to October 2024. Held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30, we will have sessions on OUD/SUD, Cardiology, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Missouri Advocacy for Family Physicians, Dermatology, Breastfeeding, and more! Watch your e-mail or visit www.mo-afp.org/cme-events/virtual-cme/ for more details including registration in the coming weeks.

Seeking Physician Delegates to National Leadership Conference

The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians is seeking physicians to serve as delegates to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL). NCCL will be held Thursday-Saturday, April 18-20, 2024, in Kansas City, MO.

The MAFP is looking for physician members who can represent the following five recognized special constituencies:

- International Medical Graduate (IMG) (an active member of the AAFP who graduated from medical school outside the United States, Canada, or Puerto Rico)
- LGBTQ+ Physician or Ally (an active AAFP member who self-identifies as LGBTQ+ or who is supportive of LGBTQ+ issues)
- Minority (an active AAFP member who is African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaska Native, ethnic Latino, or Other)
- New (an active AAFP member who has been in practice less than seven years)
- Women (an active AAFP member who self-identifies as a woman).

During NCCL you will meet family physicians from across the United States, discuss and develop resolutions that shape AAFP policies, and have the chance to be elected for various leadership positions for the next NCCL or as a delegate to the annual AAFP Congress of Delegates. MAFP will reimburse travel expenses based on the MAFP budget and travel reimbursement policy. If you are interested in serving as an NCCL delegate, please email your request and CV to Kathy Pabst, MAFP Executive Director, at kpabst@mo-afp.org.

Missouri PDMP Update

The Joint Oversight Task Force for Missouri Prescription Drug Monitoring has announced that Missouri will be deploying the Statewide PDMP through Bamboo Health's PMP AWARxE software on December 13, 2023. You do not need to re-register with PMP Clearinghouse if you are registered in the St. Louis PDMP. You will be able to continue to use your existing data submitter account to comply with the Missouri mandate for dispensers to submit dispensations of Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances per [Section 195.600, RSMo](#) on December 13, 2023.

Action Steps:

1. To ensure compliance with Missouri PDMP dispensation reporting, please follow ASAP 4.2 guidelines and Missouri reporting requirements in the [Missouri Data Submission Dispenser Guide](#).
2. Configure your data submission account for real-time data submission by January 1, 2024. Instructions may be found on page #14 of the [Missouri Data Submission Dispenser Guide](#).

Thank you for your assistance in making this a smooth transition, and for your help in making the Missouri Statewide PDMP successful. Sincerely, Dean Linneman Executive Director Joint Oversight Task Force for Missouri Prescription Drug Monitoring PDMP@oa.mo.gov.

Health Professional Loan and Loan Repayment Programs

The **Health Professional Loan and Loan Repayment programs** administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) are designed to increase access to health care for Missourians in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). In parts of Missouri, a shortage of primary health care providers makes it difficult for low-income, uninsured, and geographically isolated Missourians to receive health care. By working with health care providers and communities, access to care can be improved for the underserved.

These Health Professional Loan and Loan Repayment programs are offered through DHSS:

- **Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)** awards funding for the repayment of eligible educational loans for qualified Health Care, Mental Health, and Public Health Professionals in Missouri.
- **Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)** awards funding for the repayment of eligible educational loans for qualified Health Professionals, Physicians, Dentists, and Psychiatrists in Missouri.
- **Nurse Student Loan Program (NSL)** awards funding for eligible educational expenses to qualified students pursuing careers as licensed Practical Nurses or Professional Nurses in Missouri. New applications will no longer be accepted.
- **Nurse Loan Repayment Program (NLRP)** awards funding for the repayment of eligible educational loans for qualified Registered and Advanced Practice Nurses in Missouri. New applications will no longer be accepted.
- **The Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri (PRIMO)** awards funding for eligible educational expenses to qualified students pursuing careers as licensed primary care Physicians, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Psychiatrists in Missouri. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Applications are accepted from January 1 to March 1, each calendar year. Questions? Contact DHSS.LoanRepayment@health.mo.gov.

AAFP Resources Simplify the Employment Contracting Process

Without a doubt, signing a physician employment contract is one of the most consequential decisions a family physician can make. It's essential that physicians **understand the terms of their contract** and know how to negotiate to protect their interests and ensure their career

success and well-being. Fortunately, the AAFP has new tools and resources to help family physicians navigate the entire employment contracting experience—from choosing a knowledgeable lawyer to help review contract terms to negotiating key contract provisions, including your dues for Academy membership.

Some **simple tips** to get started include:

- Physicians should seek out experts to fill knowledge gaps. **Hiring legal** and financial advisers who understand the physician's needs and desires is fundamental to achieving a positive outcome. Knowing how to choose an experienced lawyer is a great place to start.
- Preparation is the best strategy for successful contract negotiation. Physicians should review their proposed contract to identify the most important items to negotiate, as well as what to avoid. A **member-exclusive checklist** can help identify possible concerns.
- There's no substitute for the written word. Principal elements of a contract should be spelled out in writing. Whenever possible, physicians should avoid relying on an employer's verbal assurances and promises.
- **Physicians need to decide** what they can live with—and what they can't. If an employer won't negotiate on a contract provision that's important to the physician, it may be time to walk away from the agreement.

Visit the AAFP's updated **Physician Employment Contracting webpage** for more information about these and other resources.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

It's time to renew your membership for 2024. Your membership provides a variety of exclusive products, services, and discounts **totaling nearly \$4,600** in member savings from the American Academy of Family Physicians including:

- Access to the enhanced CME Reporter tool, featuring a new search engine for courses and convenient tabs to report continuing medical education (CME) from AAFP journals and publications
- Discounts on evidence-based CME
- Family medicine-specific resources for board certification and maintenance
- Networking opportunities
- And much more, including benefits from the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians!

There are several ways for you to [pay your membership dues](#). You can pay in full today, [sign up for installments](#), or opt-in to automatically renew your membership each year. *The installment plan includes a nonrefundable, annual convenience fee of \$15.*

We'll always be here for you—with invaluable information, ways to connect with your peers, and tireless advocacy to increase administrative simplicity and ensure access to primary care. Thank you for your continued membership. If you have any questions, contact AAFP by [email](#) or call 800.274.2237.

AAFP Resources to Help You Increase Adult Immunization Rates within Racial & Ethnic Minority Communities

The following resources from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) can help you and your care team improve adult immunization rates within racial & ethnic minority communities:

Continuing Medical Education Performance Improvement (PI) Activities: Increasing Adult Immunization Rates Among African American Communities: The AAFP has developed PI continuing medical education (CME) activity designed to help educate clinicians about the importance of utilizing a quality/PI method, and Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycles to improve vaccination rates. Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn *twenty (20) Performance Improvement points in the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Family Medicine Certification program.*

Family Practice Management (FPM) Journal Educational Supplement (Part 1): The AAFP has developed an educational journal supplement, published in the May/June 2022 issue of *FPM* on Improving Adult Immunization Rates within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities, by utilizing quality improvement, recommending routine vaccinations, and reducing vaccine disparities.

FPM Journal Educational Supplement (Part 2): The AAFP has developed an educational journal supplement, published in the November/December 2022 issue of *FPM* on Improving Adult Immunization Rates within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities, by utilizing communication strategies and overcoming vaccine myths, misinformation, and barriers.

Quick Conversation Guide: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children 6 Months and Older: The AAFP has developed a Quick Conversation Guide on COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children 6 months and Older. The intent of this guide is to assist family physicians and their practice teams as they answer common questions about COVID-19 for young children. During conversations with adults about routine vaccines, it's important for family physicians to inform their patients that children should also be vaccinated. If adults are willing to vaccinate themselves, they are most likely to vaccinate their children.

Updates to ACIP Pneumococcal Recommendations: This free webcast explains the updated recommendations to help ensure vulnerable patients are protected against the highly

infectious pneumococcal pneumonia. In just 30 minutes, you'll learn how to effectively screen, educate, and immunize your at-risk patients for improved coverage rates.

AAFP Family Medicine Advocacy Rounds

AAFP Responds to 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuous primary care to patients across the lifespan, but inadequate Medicare payment rates strain physician practices and create barriers to care for enrollees. Many other health care payers and programs base their payment rates on the Medicare physician fee schedule, including TriCARE, state Medicaid agencies, and other insurers, so it is important that Medicare physician payments appropriately value primary care and keep pace with the costs of running a practice.

We are pleased to see CMS take steps to bolster primary care. Specifically, family physicians deeply appreciate the full implementation of the G2211 Medicare add-on code, which will more appropriately value the complex, continuous services they provide—including managing chronic conditions and acute problems, modifying medication doses, administering vaccines, providing preventive screenings, and counseling on healthy habits.

AAFP Supports Rule to End Sale of Menthol Cigarettes and All Flavored Cigars

There is clear evidence that flavored tobacco products, including menthol, are particularly addictive for young people. Family physicians know that eliminating menthol cigarettes will save lives and promote health equity among disproportionately affected communities.

The AAFP joined the [American Heart Association](#) and 80 other health organizations in voicing “full support” for prohibiting menthol cigarettes and all flavored cigars in a full-page [Washington Post ad](#).

AAFP Partners With Health Organizations to Release Educational Resources on Addiction

The AAFP [joined](#) the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatrists, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine to develop resources, with succinct and powerful facts about addiction. The resources are aimed at helping to raise awareness, increase understanding, and combat the stigma associated with addiction and seeking treatment.

AAFP Weighs in on the Importance of Measuring Primary Care Spending

A standardized approach to measuring and reporting on primary care spending at the national level is a vital step toward meaningfully increasing our investment in primary care. Advancing a standardized approach to measurement will enable more states to measure and report on primary care spending, facilitate improvements in relevant data, and provide policymakers and other stakeholders with actionable information to improve equitable access to primary care. With support from the Milbank Memorial Fund and the Physicians Foundation, the AAFP's Robert Graham Center developed and published a [primary care scorecard](#) which includes measurements of primary care spending in several states. While this represents an important

measure of progress, the national survey data used for primary care spending in this scorecard are not available at the state level for all 50 states.

To that end, the AAFP voiced support for a technical brief on measuring primary care health spending from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

MAFP Advocacy Day 2024

Join us in Jefferson City on February 26-27 to be the voice of Missouri Family Physicians by participating in **MAFP Advocacy Day**. This year's event will be held at the Courtyard Marriott, Jefferson City, and will include a detailed legislative briefing on Monday, February 26, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This session will also be live-streamed via Zoom for those who register for that option.

By participating in Advocacy Day, you will have the opportunity to meet with legislators, learn about important healthcare issues impacting your community, and network with other family physicians from across the state. You will also have the chance to share your personal experiences and insights with lawmakers, which can help shape healthcare policy in Missouri. Join fellow family physicians to advocate for your patients and your profession. We encourage you to invite a colleague, medical student, or resident to join you to promote the importance of family medicine and primary care. **Register now** to secure your spot, and join us in Jefferson City to be the voice of Missouri Family Physicians.