

January 2024 – MAFP News & Events



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.

Virtual CME in 2024

From January to October 2024, the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians will be providing convenient monthly virtual CME sessions for you! Held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom, we will have sessions on Opioid Use Disorder/Substance Use Disorder, Cardiology, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Missouri Advocacy for Family Physicians, Dermatology, Breastfeeding, and more. You can check out the topics and dates on our website www.mo-afp.org/cme-events/virtual-cme.

The series kicks off this month on **Thursday, January 18** with the topic Harm Reduction Strategies for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder from Kurt Bravata, MD, FACC and Kento Sonoda, MD, FASAM, AAHIVS. [Register here](#).

2024 Career Benchmark Dashboard Launch and Demonstration

Thank you to all who completed the AAFP Career Benchmark and Compensation Survey. Because of the time you took to take this important survey, the AAFP's [Family](#)

[Medicine Career Benchmark Dashboard](#) is now up and running. This tool visualizes important career and satisfaction data from more than 7,500 family physicians. While a high-level view of a few key statistics from the dashboard will be publicly available, the use of the dashboard's dynamic drill-down capabilities will be exclusively available to AAFP members and chapter staff at [AAFP.org/worth](https://www.aafp.org/worth).

Want to learn more about the dashboard and share feedback? The AAFP Career and Practice team will host a webinar on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. CT to demonstrate the new career benchmark dashboard, answer your questions, and gather your feedback for future improvements. The team will also provide an overview of AAFP career resources, which have been improved and expanded over the last few years. [Register today](#).

The dashboard will assist AAFP members in navigating career transitions with compensation, job satisfaction, and other career insights. AAFP members can use the dashboard to see how their income, benefits, career satisfaction, and more compare with that of their peers in similar roles. The dashboard also provides insights to assist family medicine residents as they compare career options and established physicians as they consider career transitions.

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.

Input Needed on Medicare Vaccine Coverage Project

The AAFP Government Relations team is kicking off a multi-year effort to explore opportunities to address coverage issues related to the administration and reimbursement of vaccines under Medicare Part B. Currently, Medicare covers all vaccines without cost-sharing but splits coverage between Part B (outpatient care) and Part D (prescription drug coverage). Patients can receive Part B vaccines (e.g., flu, pneumonia, and COVID-19) at no cost during a physician visit but must visit a pharmacy or pay upfront to receive all other vaccines, such as tetanus and shingles. The split in coverage prevents physicians from providing continuity of care to their patients, creates unnecessary confusion, and reduces the likelihood that patients will receive all ACIP-recommended vaccines.

As we organize our efforts, the AAFP Governmental Relations team would welcome your stories or examples that highlight the problems with this framework, including some of the struggles you have encountered with patients. These stories would be helpful as the AAFP undertakes an educational effort with policymakers to address this through a policy solution.

Member stories can be shared with Paige Colston at grassroots@aafp.org. If you can provide these by January 31, 2024, we would welcome your stories and examples.

ABFM Releases First Edition of Its Family Medicine Factbook

ABFM recently released its first edition of the [Family Medicine Factbook](#), a curated series of basic analyses intended to provide a broad perspective on family medicine and family physicians themselves. ABFM conducts regular surveys of family physicians across multiple points in their training and practice careers, not only during and shortly after completion of residency training but also when they complete continuous certification cycles. These surveys are unique for many reasons, including their exceptional response rates. Furthermore, their analyses are used to inform not only ABFM and Diplomates but also policymakers, planners, and the public about the remarkable work of family physicians and their teams. Survey data have been pivotal in advancing funding for family physicians and primary care, a better understanding of the discipline and its needs, and improving patient and population health.

G2211 Add-on Code: What It Is and When To Use It

The care you provide your patients is complex and comprehensive. The Medicare G2211 code will help you get paid more accurately for it. Starting January 1, 2024, use this new add-on code alongside office/outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) codes to receive additional payment for the high-value visits you provide. [Learn more.](#)

Learn New Procedures in 2024 with NPI

National Procedures Institute offers hands-on procedure courses at multiple events throughout the year. The complete 2024 schedule is online and includes their most popular courses like Joint Exam and Injections, Point of Care Ultrasound, Dermatologic Procedures, and more. All courses are limited in size to allow plenty of hands-on experience and interaction with the

faculty. NPI is owned and operated by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians and has distinguished faculty such as Grant Fowler, MD, who literally helped write the book on procedures in primary care. [Visit their website](#) to view the course offerings and schedule.

Missouri Resources Available to Promote Tobacco Cessation

The Department of Health and Senior Services is pleased to announce the addition of **new services** available beginning **January 1, 2024**, to help Missourians quit using tobacco products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, etc.). Free and confidential telephone and web-based tobacco cessation services continue to be available to Missourians ages 13 and older 24/7, 365 days per year. Additional cessation support services are available for pregnant and postpartum women, individuals with behavioral health conditions, American Indians, and adolescents (ages 13 – 17).

Want to learn more? Participate in a Q&A Webinar on Missouri's Tobacco Quit Services on Friday, January 19, 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. [Register here](#).

- [My Life My Quit](#)
- [Missouri Tobacco Quit Services Changes](#)

Federal Advocacy Update

By: AAFP Governmental Relations Team

SUPPORT Reauthorization Act Ensures Family Physicians Can Provide Necessary SUD Care

Family physicians provide comprehensive mental and behavioral health services every day. They play a crucial role in safe pain management prescribing practices, screening patients for opioid use disorder (OUD), and prescribing and maintaining treatment of medications for OUD. Additionally, primary care physicians are often the first point of care for patients and can provide necessary referrals or coordinate care with psychiatric and other mental health professionals when needed. The AAFP wrote to Congress expressing strong support for the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act (S. 3393), which includes a technical fix to ensure that trained family physicians can continue to provide necessary care, including substance use disorder treatment.

AAFP Endorses Legislation to Address Medicare Physician Payment

Family physicians provide high-quality care to our patients and our communities, but inadequate Medicare and Medicaid payment rates strain physician practices and create barriers to care for beneficiaries. Medicare physician payment rates have failed to keep up with the cost of inflation and have become increasingly insufficient, placing significant strain on physicians and their practices and creating barriers to care for beneficiaries. Last month, the AAFP endorsed two pieces of legislation that would improve Medicare payment for family physicians. The AAFP submitted a letter in support of the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act (H.R. 6545), which would increase the statutorily provided relief from Medicare physician payment cuts for 2024 from 1.25% to 2.5%. It would also make incremental

reforms to existing budget neutrality requirements, which currently undermine positive policy changes and hamstring CMS' ability to appropriately pay for all the services a beneficiary needs. The legislation also provides a one-year extension of the advanced alternative payment model incentive payment and the work Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) floor, which is currently set to expire on January 20.

The Academy applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee for unanimously passing this bill earlier this month. The Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023 (H.R. 6683) would eliminate the 3.37% Medicare cut for physicians that goes into effect on January 1. It also aligns with the AAFP's recent advocacy efforts calling on Congress to avert the full Medicare payment cuts without delaying implementation of G221.

Family Medicine's Year of Big Moves

This was a milestone year for family medicine. Learn how the AAFP joined family physicians to roll up our sleeves and work to improve health care for patients, practices, and communities. 2023 highlights can be found here.

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.