



Topline

Newsletter of the Tennessee Medical Association

Issue
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What's Inside

01. 2020 Election Guide

All active, dues-paying members are eligible to vote in the TMA Leadership Elections. Voting is open February 1 - 29. Member numbers are required to vote.

02. TMA's PAC Needs Your Support

IMPACT is the political action committee established by TMA. We need YOUR help to keep friends of medicine in the Tennessee General Assembly.

03. Take the 2020 Membership Satisfaction Survey

Give us feedback on how TMA is performing relative to its core mission. Your participation will help us evaluate overall member satisfaction and ensure we are effectively meeting members' needs.



Register now for Day on the Hill!

Join us in Nashville on Wednesday, March 25 for our annual lobbying day. tnmed.org/dayonthehill



Use TMatelemed for all your telehealth needs

TMatelemed is TMA's new virtual care platform exclusively for members to meet all your telehealth needs.



Legislative Session Underway

What members can expect during this legislative session, plus ways you can get involved.

FROM *the* PRESIDENT

The past six months have flown by, in part because of the tremendous amount of time and energy we have devoted to scope of practice. TMA believes in physician-led, team-based care and we are carrying the flag for more integration in healthcare delivery while nurses and PAs want to sever collaborative relationships. Moving forward, we have to show how physicians will design their workday to deliver cost-effective and efficient team-based care. Private practice teams differ from specialty teams, or hospital-based teams, and TMA represents them all.

Most physicians older than 40 did not learn how to function in “teams” as part of our education and training. How can we function more like the coach of a football team or swim coach? How do we inspire team members’ professional growth while safeguarding quality and safety? We will explore this facet of our profession during a CME session at the House of Delegates in May, along with an update on telemedicine. TMA is leading legislative efforts to allow fair payment for technology-based care that increases access in rural Tennessee and supports the team care model.

Please share your opinions and experiences on these or other issues. TMA is an advocacy organization and we need input from our physician members to successfully represent you.

Elise Denny MD



Elise C. Denny, MD | 2019-2020 President

TMA LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS 2020

It's TMA Election Season!

Use this voter guide to review nominees before casting your ballot online. All election materials are available at tnmed.org/elections.

- Voting will be open Feb. 1 – Feb. 29, 2020. All ballots must be cast by 5 p.m. CST on Sunday, Feb. 29, 2020, in order to be counted.
- All active, dues-paying members and veteran members are eligible to vote in the election.
- All votes must be cast online.
- Every member with an email address in the TMA system will receive an electronic notice with his or her TMA member number, verification of voting region and a link to the ballot.
- Members without active email addresses on file with TMA can access the ballot at tnmed.org/elections.
- No login is required to vote, but a valid TMA member number and region number is required.
- Ballots without a valid TMA member number will be discarded.
- All ballots will include space for write-in votes.
- A runoff election will take place March 21-28, if necessary.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE CAST ONLINE BY 5 P.M. CST ON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, OR THEY WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

For more information: contact Amy Campoli at amy.campoli@tnmed.org or 615.460.1650

2020 TMA LEADERSHIP NOMINEES

Read full candidate profiles at tnmed.org/elections.

President-Elect

Serves as head of the Tennessee Medical Association for the year following the election. Responsibilities include serving as official spokesperson with media, government officials, and other entities. The president-elect will serve one year as president-elect, one year as president and one year as immediate past president.



Edward W. Capparelli, MD

City: Jacksboro
CMS: Roane-Anderson County Medical Society
Specialty: Family Medicine
Email: capparellie@mphci.com



Ron Kirkland, MD, MBA

City: Jackson
CMS: Consolidated Medical Assembly of West Tennessee
Specialty: Otolaryngology
Email: rhkirk2001@gmail.com



Jane Siegel, MD

City: Nashville
CMS: Nashville Academy of Medicine
Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery
Email: janesiegel@nashvillemedicine.com

Board of Trustees

The TMA Board of Trustees determines the policy and details of management of the association between meetings of the TMA House of Delegates. Trustees carry out the directives given by the House. They serve two-year terms.

Region 2 Nominee



Pam Murray, MD

City: Jackson
CMS: Consolidated Medical Assembly of West Tennessee
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Email: lady96lou@yahoo.com

Region 4 Nominee



Adrian Rodriguez, MD

City: Nashville
CMS: Nashville Academy of Medicine
Specialty: Dermatology
Email: adrianrodriguezMD@gmail.com

Region 5 Nominee



Jamie Cates, MD

City: Cookeville
CMS: Upper Cumberland Medical Society
Specialty: Family Practice
Email: jamiecatesmd@yahoo.com

Region 7 Nominee



Tim Wilson, MD

City: Knoxville
CMS: Knoxville Academy of Medicine
Specialty: Plastic Surgery
Email: tswmd@aol.com

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council meets annually, or more often if necessary, to investigate alleged improper conduct and oversee formal disciplinary action against members or component medical societies. Councilors also assist component medical societies in maintaining viability in the region. Each region has one councilor serving on the Judicial Council. Councilors serve two-year terms.

Region 1 Nominee



Autry Parker, Jr., MD, MPH

City: Memphis
CMS: The Memphis Medical Society
Specialty: Interventional Pain Management
Email: autryparker@msn.com

Region 3 Nominee



Keith Lovelady, MD, MPH

City: Manchester
CMS: Coffee County Medical Society
Specialty: Pulmonology
Email: keithlovelady@msn.com

Region 5 Nominee



Jim Batson, MD

City: Cookeville
CMS: Upper Cumberland Medical Society
Specialty: Pediatrics
Email: jhbatson@yahoo.com

Region 7 Nominee



Jack Lacey, MD

City: Knoxville
CMS: Knoxville Academy of Medicine
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Email: jlacey@utmck.edu

2020 Membership Dues Renewal

TMA is pleased to offer automated monthly or quarterly payments as a response to members who have asked for more flexibility and convenience in how they pay dues. Physicians who prefer to pay annually can continue doing so.

Renew by logging into your membership profile at tnmed.org.

Legislators Share the Importance of Physicians Supporting IMPACT



IMPACT is the political action committee established by TMA to financially support candidates who understand the challenging issues facing medicine. Contributions to IMPACT are a part of what makes TMA the most influential advocacy organization in Tennessee. Legislators turn to IMPACT for

support in their campaigns because they know they can turn to TMA physician members and staff as subject matter experts in complex healthcare issues.

US Representative Mark Green—a physician, TMA member and former state senator—said, “TMA fights for the doctors and it fights for patient care. People respect that. IMPACT has an impeccable reputation and they’re doing great things to support TMA’s advocacy.”

Rep. Tom Leatherwood of Arlington said that it is important for physicians to support candidates who are willing to listen to complex issues and make reasoned decisions. “That support makes a difference,” he said.

Currently, only 4% of TMA members contribute to IMPACT. If every TMA member gave \$100, IMPACT’s influence and reach would quadruple. Contributing to IMPACT is a small investment that gives physicians tremendous influence. Your contributions pay dividends with TMA’s advocacy efforts and will keep TMA the most influential group on Capitol Hill.

Join today at tnmed.org/IMPACT.

TMA Membership Satisfaction Survey

Give us feedback on how TMA is performing relative to its core mission. Your participation will help us evaluate overall member satisfaction and ensure we are effectively meeting members' needs.

tnmed.org/membersatisfaction



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

NASHVILLE

REGISTER at

tnmed.org/dayonthehill



Legislative Update

2020 Legislative Session is Underway

The second session of the 111th Tennessee General Assembly reconvened on Wednesday, Jan. 14. TMA recently announced its 2020 legislative priorities to include scope of practice, balance billing, telemedicine and Tennessee's professional privilege tax.

Scope of Practice: TMA will continue to lead the charge on advocacy efforts to keep physicians as leaders of the healthcare delivery team in Tennessee, working to strengthen interprofessional relationships, not weaken them. TMA has filed a capstone bill to combat the bill brought by the Tennessee Nurses Association for independent practice by nurse practitioners. The TNA bill is sponsored by Rep. Bob Ramsey, a dentist from Maryville, and Sen. Jon Lundberg from Bristol. TMA continues to lobby for physician-led, team-based care as the best model for patient safety and quality of care.

Balance Billing: TMA is advocating for an independent dispute resolution entity to address surprise medical billing and hold patients harmless for out-of-network charges. This proposed state plan will only affect 20% of the market as TennCare, Medicare, Medicaid and ERISA plans are governed by federal law. Rep. Timothy Hill and Sen. Bo Watson are sponsoring the TMA bill.

Telemedicine: TMA in 2019 laid the groundwork for educating lawmakers on changing technologies and necessary legislative action for telehealth services including appropriate rules and reimbursement. Telehealth is a critical step in improving healthcare access to rural and underserved areas. TMA is advocating for telehealth as part of coordinated, integrated healthcare delivery, to be reimbursed on par with comparable in-person services.

Professional Privilege Tax: Prior to adjourning the 2019 session in May, the General Assembly abruptly exempted several professions from paying the state's professional privilege tax. Doctors are still required to pay the annual tax, along with lawyers, lobbyists and stock brokers. TMA is working in partnership with the Professional Privilege Tax Coalition to repeal the tax for all Tennesseans. Contact your legislators directly about the tax at tnmed.org/professionalprivilegetax.

Stay informed on TMA's legislative progress with our weekly legislative e-newsletter, *Political Pulse*. Email julia.couch@tnmed.org to subscribe.



Grassroots Opportunities for Members

The state legislature files an average of 300 pieces of legislation each year that directly affect the healthcare industry. TMA's grassroots program helps physicians strategically leverage their medical expertise into political persuasion, create and maintain productive relationships with legislators and directly influence laws that affect their profession. Find out how to get involved at tnmed.org/grassroots.

NEW: TMA's solution to your Telehealth Needs

TMAtelemed: Connecting you to your patients... virtually anywhere

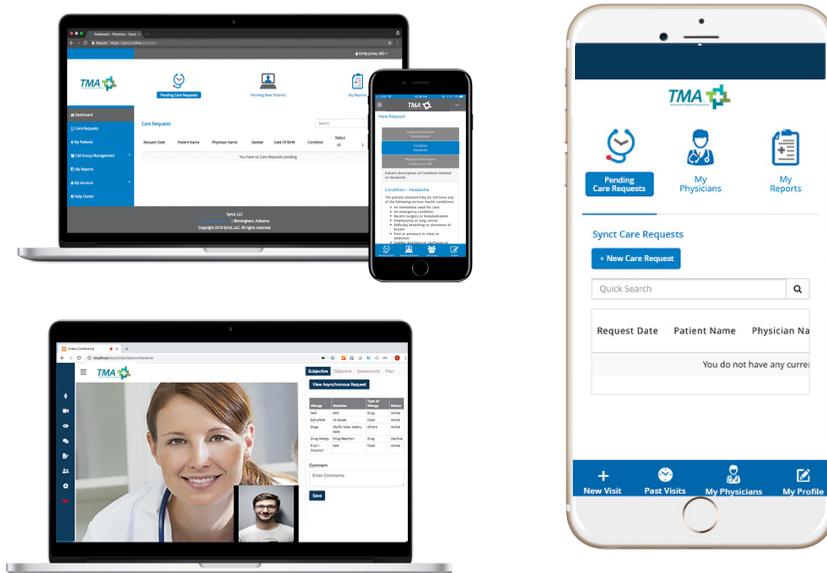
Visit synct.md/tma to learn more.

TMAtelemed is a virtual care platform exclusively for TMA member physicians. The telemedicine solution allows physicians to deliver more convenient patient care and create new revenue streams in an increasingly competitive, technology-driven healthcare market.

Using TMAtelemed gives patients a new solution for their basic care needs when an office visit isn't necessary or convenient. The portal gives physicians an efficient way to manage care requests and be fairly paid for the care they provide.

How does it work? Using a computer or mobile device, patients select their medical or behavioral health condition supported by their physician, then answer specific questions to communicate their care needs to their physician. In less than two minutes, the physician can review the patient request and respond with care instructions or, if necessary, instruct the patient to schedule an office visit or to schedule a telemedicine video conference.

TMAtelemed is a cloud-based software that communicates with your EMR. Access the software on via computer, smart phone, or anywhere a device is connected to the internet.



Supported Conditions

TMAtelemed supports over 45 medical, behavioral health, gastroenterology and dermatology conditions, plus prescription refills

GENERAL

- Cough/Cold/Flu
- Allergies
- Infections
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Bug bites
- Rash

DERMATOLOGY

- Mole
- Acne
- Skin spot
- Eczema
- Hives
- Psoriasis
- Rosacea
- Wart
- Impetigo

GASTROENTEROLOGY

- Abdominal Pain
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rectal Bleeding
- GERD/Reflux

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Addition
- Paranoia

Consider TMA for CME Accreditation Services

Did you know that TMA is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to offer CME accreditation services? TMA offers proprietary, accredited CME content and can also accredit other organizations' education programs to help physicians improve competence, performance, and/or patient outcomes.

- Accreditation for all formats including live/in person, webinars and enduring online programs
- Competitive pricing starting at \$1,000
- Significant discounts for member groups and qualifying organizations
- Quick and easy online application process

Visit tnmed.org/accreditation or contact education@tnmed.org to submit a program for consideration.

Legal Services That Come with Your TMA Membership

TMA's relentless advocacy is more than lobbying on Capitol Hill. TMA aggressively defends physician rights in every legal and regulatory forum, and gives members personal access to a multitude of legal services. All legal resources can be accessed using your TMA member number or by contacting the legal department at legal@tnmed.org or 615.460.1645.

Legal Services include:

Law Guide Directory: a comprehensive collection of topics explaining legal and regulatory requirements that Tennessee physicians must follow. The guide is updated as laws are passed or amended.

Doctor Shopping Guide: assists physicians in meeting the requirement under state law to report drug-seeking patients.

Collaborating Physician Toolkit: ensures that physicians collaborating with APRNs or PAs remain compliant with state requirements.

ERISA Toolkit: provides sample letters and forms that can help in claim payment, claims denial appeals or responding to a recoupment demand. The majority of health insurance plans in Tennessee are subject to the federal ERISA law, making reimbursements confusing for practices.

2019 Provider Stability Act Guide: assists physicians in understanding the scope of the law, which requires more transparency and limits changes to reimbursement rates in contracts between health plans and physicians.

Issue-specific Guides: online resources to understand current laws and keep members informed on progress with upcoming legislation, from opioids to surprise medical billing, scope of practice to episodes of care.

More guides and legal services and many others can be found at tnmed.org/legal. *Member login required.*

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



NEW from TMA Medical Banking: Doctor Mortgage Program

The program includes 100% financing up to \$1,000,000 | 95% financing up to \$1,500,000 | 90% financing up to \$2,000,000 • No PMI • Underwritten based on current income or new employment contract • Closing available up to 90 days in advance of employment start date.

Contact James Nicholson at jnicholson@tmamedicalbanking.com or 615.777.2173

tnmed.org/mortgage



Foresight in 2020.

We believe that your malpractice insurance team should be ready and available when you need them most. SVMIC is built on this kind of reliable and dedicated relationship, so you can focus on your practice and we can focus on protecting it.

Move forward with us at
www.svmic.com



701 Bradford Avenue
Nashville, TN 37204

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED