



AMA ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Since launching its five-part Recovery Plan for America's Physicians in 2022, the American Medical Association has achieved significant wins in these — and other — areas critical to health care. See inside for more details as we continue **#FightingForDocs** in 2024.



PART OF THE AMA RECOVERY PLAN FOR AMERICA'S PHYSICIANS

Fixing prior authorization



- Secured a CMS final rule that requires government-regulated health plans to reduce the timeframes for prior authorization decisions and to publicly report program metrics. These plans will also be required to offer electronic prior authorization technology that directly integrates with EHRs. These changes build on new Medicare Advantage requirements that went into effect in January 2024 that ensure validity of prior authorization clinical criteria and protections for care continuity.
- Advocated for reintroduction of the GOLD CARD Act of 2023.
- Working in partnership with state medical associations across the country to enact prior authorization reform using AMA model legislation, data, testimony and other resources. More than 30 states introduced legislation in 2023 alone, and at least nine new state laws were enacted.
- Facilitated United Healthcare and Cigna reducing the volume of their prior authorization requirements by 20% and 25%, respectively.

33% of physicians reported that prior authorization led to a serious adverse event for a patient in their care, including hospitalization, permanent impairment, or death.*

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Reducing physician burnout



- Working closely with the Federation of State Medical Boards and Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation to urge state medical boards, credentialing bodies, and others to remove from their applications stigmatizing and potentially discriminatory questions that may deter physicians from seeking care—multiple boards and health systems have changed their applications after consultations with AMA.
- AMA efforts with partners have led to statewide changes in Mass. and Va., as well as changes at more than 26 states, 320 hospitals, urgent care centers and other facilities—having a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of physicians.
- Advocated for and supported new laws and policies in Ariz., Del., Ga., Ill., Ky., Miss., Ohio, S.D., and Va., that protect physicians who seek care for wellness and burnout and working to implement the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.
- Supporting state physician health programs to help ensure that physicians seeking care have important confidentiality protections to support their treatment and safe return to practice. Working with the Federation of State Physician Health Programs to further support and destigmatize physician health programs.

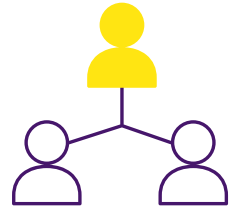
Addressing insurer issues

- Continuing to address No Surprises Act implementation issues with the administration, Congress and in the courts when necessary. Recent court decisions, supported by the AMA, have resulted in a fairer dispute resolution process.
- Led over 100 other organizations in preventing implementation of burdensome Cigna modifier 25 policy.

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Promoting physician-led care

- Helped defeat legislation across the country that would have allowed:
 - Physician assistants to practice independently without physician oversight.
 - Pharmacists to prescribe medications.
 - Optometrists to perform surgery.
 - Scope of practice expansion for nurse practitioners and other APRNs.
- Worked with multiple state medical associations to introduce new or strengthen existing Truth in Advertising laws. Two states enacted laws in 2023.
- Leading AMA Scope of Practice Partnership, which has provided more than \$3.6 million in grants since its inception to support state medical association and specialty society efforts.



Achieved more than 100 state-level victories in 2023
in partnership with state medical associations and national medical specialty societies.

Preventing firearm injuries and death

- Pushing lawmakers to adopt common-sense steps to prevent avoidable deaths and injuries caused by firearm violence.
- Partnering with state medical associations to shape state-level initiatives and legislation.
- Continuing to work with a coalition on ensuring the continuation of and increase in the funding for firearm violence prevention research.

Reducing overdose and improving care for patients with pain

- Successfully advocated for over-the-counter availability of naloxone and continuing to advocate for true access in pharmacies and other retailers as well as responsible pricing and insurance coverage for this life-saving medication.
- Successfully advocated for revisions to the CDC's opioid prescribing guidelines that resulted in the CDC removing its numeric thresholds for dose and quantity and making clear that state laws and payer policies should not include specific, numeric thresholds for treating patients with pain.

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Supporting telehealth

- Achieved passage of legislation to extend Medicare telehealth coverage, including audio-only and hospital-at-home services, through 2024.
- Supporting the CONNECT for Health Act, bipartisan legislation which would expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities.

Pursuing solutions to the physician workforce crisis

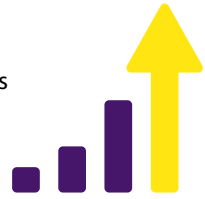
- Pushing Congress to help stop the current and impending further crisis in the physician workforce, by emphasizing a multi-prong solution in unison with the AMA's Recovery Plan to establish:
 - Additional GME slots and funding so that more physicians can be trained.
 - Additional funding in support of programs created through the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.
 - More loan repayment and scholarship programs for physicians provided by the Committee, such as through the National Health Service Corps.

There is a projected shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians by 2034.*

* Source: *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034*, Association of American Medical Colleges. <https://www.aamc.org/media/54681/download>

Reforming Medicare payment

- Achieved consensus across medicine to pursue four pillars of Medicare payment reform:
 - Establish an annual inflation-based payment update for Medicare physician payments.
 - Revise policies and processes used to adjust payments to maintain budget neutrality.
 - Simplify and improve the clinical relevancy reporting programs under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System.
 - Extend policies that support practices wanting to transition to value-based payment systems.
- Secured introduction of H.R. 2474 to apply an automatic inflation update to Medicare physician payments by tying the Medicare physician fee schedule to the Medicare Economic Index.
- Secured introduction of H.R. 6371 to revise budget neutrality policies to mitigate inappropriate payment schedule conversion factor cuts and minimize revenue instability.
- Launched a grassroots campaign and website, [FixMedicareNow.org](https://www.FixMedicareNow.org), in June that to date has had 288,000+ contacts to Congress.



Medicare physician payments (when adjusted for practice cost inflation) have **declined 30% from 2001 to 2024.***



Take action to #FixMedicareNow

Preserving access to care

- Opposed efforts to further attack the ACA and the preventive care requirements, including filing briefs to explain the importance of this care.
- Working with policymakers to address the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis in the U.S. — and improve children’s health — by permanently extending Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to 12 months postpartum among other measures.
- Working with policymakers to improve the Medicaid redetermination process and minimize coverage losses.

Improving public health

- Encouraging the administration to provide flexibility in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Packages to better reflect cultural and medical needs and personal preferences while promoting growth and health in women and children.
- Advised the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise its Child Nutrition Programs to limit the fat, added sugar and sodium content in school-based food programs, and accommodate food substitutions based on cultural and medical needs and preferences.

Fighting government interference in the practice of medicine

- Working with states and federal policymakers to preserve access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care, including access to mifepristone and other evidence-based treatments.
- Successfully pushed states to adopt legal protections for physicians who provide abortion care to patients seeking care outside their home state.
- Fighting back against state legislative efforts to ban gender-affirming care for transgender patients.
- Successfully urged the FDA to remove categorical restrictions on blood donations for men who have sex with men.



**Read more about
AMA advocacy
efforts on our
web page.**



**Read more about
the AMA Recovery
Plan for America’s
Physicians.**