



INDIANA PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE THREE | FALL 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CATHY COKER, DPM | IPMA PRESIDENT

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great summer. The beginning of fall means many things; the return of school and football, fall colors and crunchy leaves, scarves and sweaters, apple orchards, cider and donuts, and pretty pumpkins on the front porch...

...And of course—the IPMA Annual Convention! This year the convention will take place October 5-8 at the Marriott Indianapolis North. We have a tremendous agenda and line-up of speakers. A full program can be found in the newsletter and online at the [IPMA website](#).

I encourage members to attend this fall and bring a colleague. I always enjoy seeing so many colleagues in person. Our lives are so busy with so many things, I really believe it is critical for our association and our profession that we can all get together for this yearly event. A sense of community is important and too often in today's world we lose that.

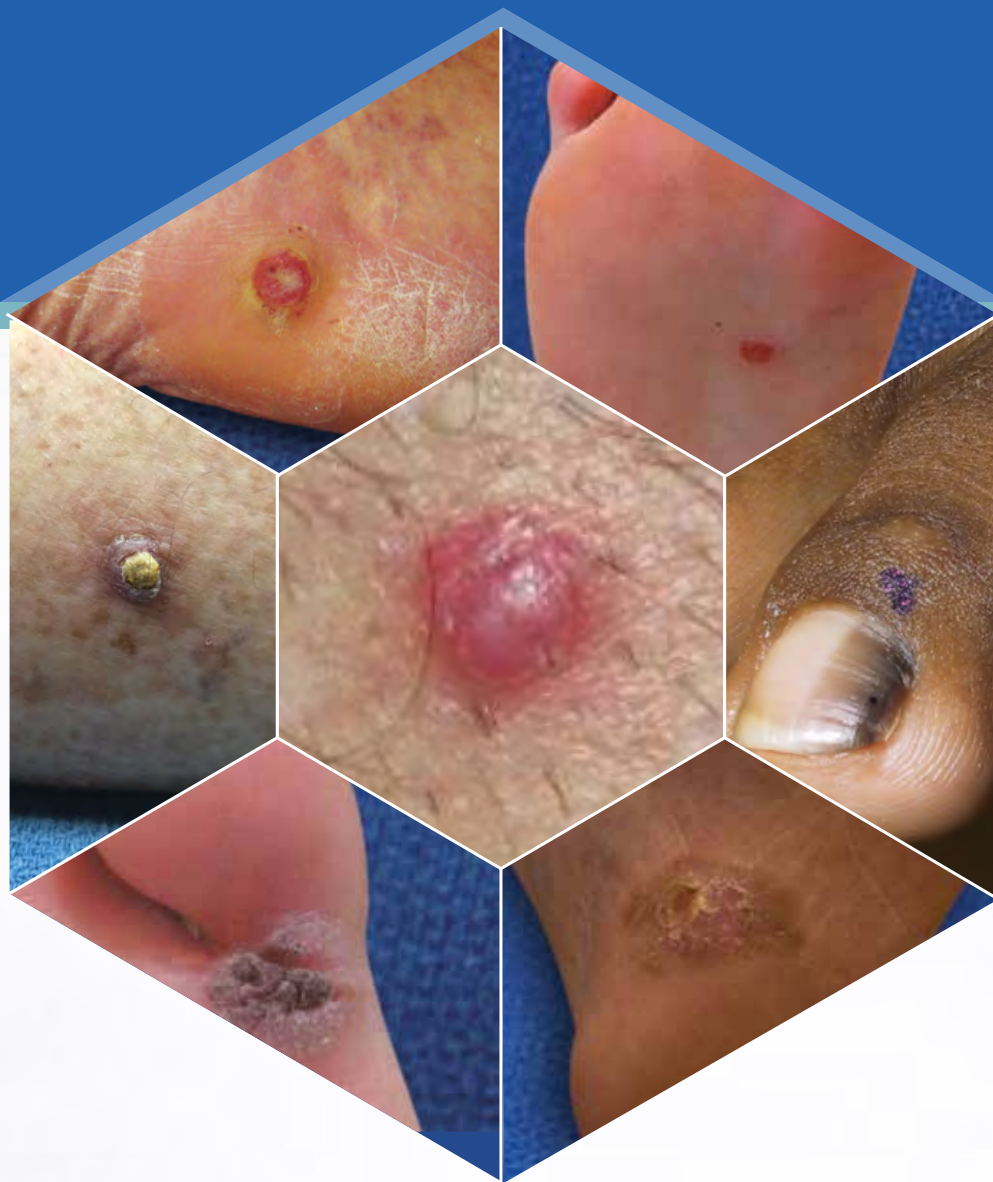
As we look forward to getting together in early October, I would ask you to continue supporting the IPMA/APMA with your membership dues, participation and political contributions. These are all key to the success of our association and our profession. The IPMA needs you to be involved and engaged to make change happen for podiatrists, our patients, and our practices.

We continue to need the time and talents of all members to remain a strong organization and cultivate new leaders for our profession. Please ask yourself how you can give back. There are so many ways to do so I would encourage all members to find a way to give back that they would find most meaningful.

Podiatry is a tremendous profession, and we owe it to the next generation of podiatrists to secure a bright future. 🩺



What do all of these skin lesions have in common?



They are all **MALIGNANT**.

Early diagnosis and treatment can save a life.





Annual Fall Convention

INDIANA PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 5-8, 2023 | MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS NORTH

CONVENTION INFORMATION



Annual Fall Convention

Convention Information

Location & Hotel Accommodations

Marriott Indianapolis North
3645 River Crossing Parkway
Indianapolis, IN 46240



The Marriott Indianapolis North is offering a special rate of \$155 for the IPMA Convention. Reservations must be made by September 14 to ensure this rate. To make reservations call 866-792-9198 or visit the convention page at www.indianapodiatic.org

Questions?

Please contact the IPMA office with any questions. We are happy to help. Email us at inpma@indianapodiatic.org or call 888.330.5589.

Parking

Complimentary self parking is available at the Marriott Indianapolis North.

Convention Registration

The convention registration fee includes all education sessions, as well as breaks and lunch on Friday and Saturday. You must pre-register for the lunches. To register online, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.



Scan Me

Need assistance? Call 888-330-5589.

Registration Fees

IPMA Member.....	\$295*
APMA Member.....	\$495*
Non-Member	\$795*
IPMA/APMA Life Member.....	Complimentary*
Resident/Student.....	Complimentary
Medical Assistant/Office Staff	\$130
CPR Certification Course.....	\$85

An additional fee of \$35 will be added to all registrations received after September 28, 2023. After September 28, complimentary registrations will increase to \$35.

*There will be an additional fee of \$150 to attend the conference virtually. This option is only available to doctors.

Continuing Education Credit

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the standards and requirements for approval of providers of continuing education in podiatric medicine through a joint provider agreement between the American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management and the Indiana Podiatric Medical Association. The American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education as a provider of continuing education in podiatric medicine. The American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management has approved this activity for a maximum of 21.5 continuing education contact hours. The Office Staff/Medical Assistant program on Friday, October 6 will offer 7 continuing medical education credits, pending approval from the Commission on Accreditation of Podiatric Medical Assisting Certification.





OCTOBER 5-8, 2023

MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS NORTH



Convention Information

Virtual Attendance Option

The IPMA Fall Convention will be held in person at the Marriott Indianapolis North. IPMA is also offering the option for doctors to attend virtually. (You may only select one option – in person or virtual.) We regret that we cannot offer a combined format of both virtual and in person. This option is only available for the doctor program.

If you are electing to attend virtually, a few days prior to the convention, you will receive the information to log into the virtual platform. Your login is unique to you and will be used to determine the number of continuing education credits to be awarded, along with your participation in the CME sign-in opportunities. In addition, you will receive instructions on how to achieve continuing education credits and the convention program.

Attire

The suggested attire for all events is business or business casual.

Lectures

The topics and speakers may have changed since this brochure was produced. Please visit indianapodiatic.org for the most up-to-date schedule and for lecture descriptions and learning objectives.

Intended Audience

This convention will be of interest to podiatric physicians and surgeons. Other health care professionals with special interest in the diagnosis and treatment of lower extremity disorders will also benefit from this convention.

Convention Purpose and Objectives

This convention will provide information on the most up-to-date diagnostic and treatment methods for lower extremity disorders. Objectives include:

1. To provide the podiatric physician with a broad range of programs offered in an intensive three-day convention.
2. To establish an understanding of developing concepts in the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of lower extremity disorders and foot conditions.

About IPMA

The Indiana Podiatric Medical Association represents podiatrists throughout the state with the goal of furthering the specialty of podiatry at the local and national level. IPMA actively educates, supports and advocates for podiatrists and their patients on a wide variety of administrative, licensing, legislative, and patient-care issues.

IPMA's mission is to ensure the highest quality of lower extremity health care for patients by advancing the art and science of podiatric medicine through advanced continuing education, legislative advocacy, public education and promotion of the profession.

Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

The Indiana Podiatric Medical Association's (IPMA) Policy on Privacy and Confidentiality dictates the Association's handling of a learner's personal information. This policy is enforced in all areas of the Association's business, including online communications, offline communications, direct marketing, and event registration.

IPMA maintains a comprehensive database of information on its learners in accordance with the general needs and expectations of the organization and its learners. This information is intended exclusively for purposes related to official Association business and to facilitate interaction between the Association and its learners. Directory information in the database may include home or work addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and activity registrations/online purchases.

Consent to Use Photographic Images

Registration and attendance or participation in the IPMA Fall Convention constitutes an agreement providing permission for the use of the registrant's image or voice in photographs or recordings at the event without compensation. IPMA can use the images for promotions in any and all media. IPMA or its successors are exempt from any liability for the use of photographic images. You may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying IPMA at inpma@indianapodiatic.org.



Annual Fall Convention

Doctor Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

5 Continuing Education Contact Hours

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

IPMA Board of Trustees Meeting

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CME Sign-in and Sign-out

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Risk Management Lunch Lecture: Deliberate Habits of Situational Risk Awareness | 2.0 CECH

Luke Cicchinelli, DPM, FACFAS

PICA insured podiatrists attending this lecture are eligible to receive a one-year, 15% risk premium credit.

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Choosing E&M Levels: No Guessing! | 1.0 CECH

Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Updates to Surgical Treatment of Nails and Routine Foot Care Policies | 0.5 CECH

Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM

3:00 p.m.-3:15 pm.

Break

3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Coding Changes for 2024 You Need to Know | 0.5 CECH

Jeffrey Lehrman, DPM

3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

The Lessons of the Holocaust for Healthcare: Personal, Profession and Historical Reflections | 1.0 CECH

Alex Kor, DPM, MS

6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Adult CPR/AED Certification

There is an additional fee to attend.

Adult CPR/AED Certification

Thursday, October 5 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

You may receive certification or renew a current certification by attending this course taught by the American Red Cross. You will receive your certificate and proof of completing the course for continuing education contact hours directly from the American Red Cross. Registration for this certification is through IPMA and available on the convention registration form. There is an additional fee to attend this course.





OCTOBER 5-8, 2023

MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS NORTH



Doctor Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

6 Continuing Education Contact Hours

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CME Sign-in and Sign-out

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast with Vendors

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

5th Metatarsal Fractures: Should We Be Operating? | 0.5 CECH

Andrew Belis, DPM

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

In-Office Minimal Incision Digital Deformity Correction | 0.5 CECH

Andrew Belis, DPM

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

The Challenging Cavus Foot Type and Its Management | 0.5 CECH

Andrew Belis, DPM

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Best Documentation Practices to Help Avoid an Audit | 0.5 CECH

Alan Bass, DPM

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break with Vendors

10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Best Reports to Run to Monitor the Health of Your Practice | 0.5 CECH

Alan Bass, DPM

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Peritalar Malalignment Reconstruction | 1.0 CECH

Douglas Blackledge, DPM

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Vendor Showcase

Join us for an informational lunch, along with time to visit with colleagues. There will be prize drawings and you must be present to win.

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Podiatry Great Escape | 1.0 CECH

Nathan Graves, DPM

This innovative learner-focused activity will use knowledge-based problems and technical skills to progress through the challenge. A debriefing session will be held at the conclusion.

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Refreshment Break with Vendors

3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

High Risk Geriatric Ankle Fractures: Treatment Algorithms | 0.5 CECH

Byron Hutchinson, DPM

3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Total Talar Replacement: A Comprehensive Overview | 0.5 CECH

Byron Hutchinson, DPM

4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Distal Tibial Distraction Osteogenesis in Hindfoot & Ankle Reconstruction | 0.5 CECH

Byron Hutchinson, DPM

4:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Non-Compete Clauses

Stephanie Eckerle

5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Past President's Reception

Visit indianapodiatric.org for more information about speakers and lectures.





Annual Fall Convention

Doctor Schedule

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

6 Continuing Education Contact Hours

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CME Sign-in and Sign-out

8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Lecture to be announced | 0.5 CECH

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Safer Incision for Plantar Fasciotomy | 0.5 CECH

Kevin Powers, DPM

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Nerve Injury Following Sprained Ankle | 0.5 CECH

Kevin Powers, DPM

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Debates | 1.5 CECH

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Lunch and IPMA Annual Meeting

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Lecture to be announced | 1.0 CECH

Zahid Ladha, DPM

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Rehabilitation for Common Foot and Ankle Dysfunctions | 0.5 CECH

Leslie McMurray, PT

3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Facts, Fiction, Fallacies of the Lapidus Bunionectomy | 0.75 CECH

Patrick DeHeer, DPM

4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Middle Facet Subtalar Coalition: Fuse or Resect? | 0.75 CECH

Patrick DeHeer, DPM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

4.5 Continuing Education Contact Hours

7:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Convention Registration

7:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Abstract Presentations | 2.5 CECH

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Abstract Presentations | 2 CECH



Visit indianapodiatric.org
for more information
about speakers
and lectures.



OCTOBER 5-8, 2023

MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS NORTH



Medical Assistant (Office Staff) Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Bonus Education

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Risk Management Lunch Lecture:
Deliberate Habits of Situational Risk
Awareness | 2.0 CME**

Luke Cicchinelli, DPM, FACFAS

1:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Medical assistants and office staff are invited to attend the doctor lectures. Please see page 4 for the schedule.

6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Adult CPR/AED Certification

See description on page 4.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Medical Assistant and Office Staff Program | 7 Continuing Medical Education Credits

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.

**Softwave Tissue Regeneration
Workshop | .75 CME**

Chad May

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

**Tips for Running a Successful,
Efficient and Compliant Diabetic
Shoe Program | 1.0 CME**

Erick Janisse, CO, CPed

9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

**Wound Care Dressings:
Uses, Indications and
Applications | .75 CME**

George Borak

10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Break with Exhibitors

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Sterilization Techniques for the
Modern Office | 1.0 CME**

Jim Rief

12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Vendor Showcase

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Podiatry Great Escape | 1.0 CME

Nathan Graves, DPM

This innovative learner-focused activity will use knowledge-based problems and technical skills to progress through the challenge. A debriefing session will be held at the conclusion.

2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Break with Exhibitors

3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

**HPIs in the 21st Century:
How to Get a Good HPI | .5 CME**

Alan Bass, DPM

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Hygiene and Environmental
Management | 1.0 CME**

Rachel Martinez

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Podiatric Jeopardy | 1.0 CME

Zahid Ladha, DPM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Bonus Education

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Convention Registration

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Medical assistants and office staff are invited to attend the doctor lectures. Please see page 6 for the schedule.

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Medical assistants and office staff are invited to attend the doctor lectures. Please see page 6 for the schedule.

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Lunch and IPMA Annual Meeting

There is an additional fee for medical assistants and staff to attend this lunch.

1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Medical assistants and office staff are invited to attend the doctor lectures. Please see page 6 for the schedule.

3:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Medical assistants and office staff are invited to attend the doctor lectures. Please see page 6 for the schedule.

NEW STUDENT RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES

The American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) announced a new student recruitment effort to increase the number of applicants to the schools and colleges of podiatric medicine.

Launched September 1, 2023, the new recruitment entitled **“Feet on the Street”** combines the components of an outreach plan, increased social media, including podcasts and blogs, and highlighting prominent podiatric physicians and star “friends of podiatry”.

The outreach plan includes creating opportunities for DPM faculty and local DPMs to visit 220 colleges across the country that currently are not sending students to the schools and colleges of podiatric medicine. These visits are beyond the standard recruitment plans at each podiatric medical school and will leverage the dean and clinical faculty to visit undergraduate institutions with a local podiatric physician to create a

purposeful opportunity to introduce the career to premedical students and advisors.

Appropriate social media and podcast plans will supplement these visits. Examples include AACPM’s new website, www.explorepodmed.org and <https://deanschat.com>. Critical to the initiative is establishing the local physician as a shadowing resource.

At the same time, The Foundation for Podiatric Education unveiled its new website at <https://dpmrecruits.com>. The Foundation for Podiatric Education was created during the 2023 APMA House of Delegates. Dan Kline, executive director for the New York State Podiatric Medical Association and a Foundation board member, stated, “Student recruitment and career awareness is of the utmost importance. The Foundation brings together all of the related podiatry entities to raise money and develop a comprehensive and aggressive marketing plan.”

APMA SUBMITS COMMENTS TO CMS ON PROPOSED RULES RELATED TO HHPPS AND TCET

APMA recently submitted comments to CMS in response to its proposed rules related to the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HHPPS) and Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies (TCET).

In the comments related to the HHPPS proposed rule, APMA focused largely on CMS’ proposal to create a new benefit category for “lymphedema compression treatment items.” APMA was generally supportive of CMS’s proposals related to this section. We also strongly recommended that CMS should make the professional services of applying these types of bandages a covered service, and supported finalizing CMS’ proposal to include accessories necessary for the effective use of gradient compression garments and gradient compression wraps with adjustable straps under this new benefit for lymphedema compression treatment items.

In the comments related to the TCET, APMA supported CMS’ revamped proposal to meaningfully create a new mechanism that would allow temporary Medicare coverage to certain qualifying devices designated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as breakthrough devices, via the transitional coverage for emerging technologies (TCET) pathway. APMA recommended that CMS provide clearer guidelines for how it will prioritize nominations for acceptance into the TCET pathway. We also recommended that CMS provide additional clarification on how coding and payment processes to facilitate coverage and payment for new or emerging technologies will unfold.

To read both these letters and other past letters in full, visit www.apma.org/CommentLetters. Contact the APMA Health Policy and Practice department with any questions or concerns.

APMA MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

To ensure that you are receiving the most value for your APMA membership, following is a quick list of APMA’s most-visited online member resources:

- Coding Resources
- -59 Modifier Tool Kit
- Private Insurance Resource Guide
- Online CECH
- Recent Advocacy Victories
- Young Physician Transition Series
- APMA eAdvocacy

APMAPAC UPDATE

SANDRA RAYNOR, DPM
APMAPAC COORDINATOR

2023 Contribution Numbers through September 1, 2023
Goal: \$11,465/\$8,446 (136%)
Contributors: 20/198 (10%)

DIAMOND LEVEL (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Dr. Patrick DeHeer
Dr. Zahid Ladha
Dr. Sandra Raynor

GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS (\$500-\$999)

Dr. Angie Glynn
Dr. Miranda Goodale
Executive Director Matt Solak

SILVER LEVEL (\$300-\$499)

Dr. Gage Caudell
Dr. Wendy Goldstein
Dr. Patricia Moore
Dr. Kathleen Neuhoff

BRONZE LEVEL (\$150-\$299)

Dr. Michael Carroll
Dr. Scott Neville

PATRIOT LEVEL (LESS THAN \$150)

Dr. Kent Burress
Dr. Robert Freestone
Dr. Nathan Graves
Dr. Niral Patel
Dr. Sarah Standish
Dr. Rachel Stern
Dr. Chase Stuart 

PURPOSE: The American Podiatric Medical Association Political Action Committee's purpose is to raise and disburse funds to candidates for Federal office that support the legislative priorities and goals of the podiatric medical profession.

IMPORTANT: All amounts are simply suggested amounts. You may contribute or not contribute without concern of being favored or disadvantaged. Occupation/Employer information is required for aggregate annual contributions of more than \$200.00 by the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal election law does not permit corporate contributions to be used for donation to candidates for federal office. Political contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes.



APMAPAC
Promoting Professional Excellence and Patient Advocacy

★ ENSURING THE ★

SUCCESS

OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

SINCE 1972

eAdvocacy
Federal & State
Action Center

Visit www.apma.org/donate.
Make a difference for podiatry. Join TEAM APMAPAC today!

PURPOSE: The American Podiatric Medical Association Political Action Committee's purpose is to raise and disburse funds to candidates for federal office who support the legislative priorities and goals of the podiatric medical profession.

IMPORTANT: You may contribute or not contribute without concern of being favored or disadvantaged. Occupation/Employer information is required for aggregate annual contributions of more than \$200.00 by the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal election law does not permit corporate contributions to be used for donation to candidates for federal office. Political contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes.

IPMA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

This notice will serve as satisfying the IPMA Bylaws requirement (Chapter VI, Section 1) that notice be communicated to members prior to the meeting.

The annual meeting of the IPMA membership will be held on October 6, 2023 from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm at the Marriott Indianapolis North located at 3645 River Crossing Pkwy, Indianapolis, IN 46240

This meeting is during the annual convention of the IPMA that takes place October 5 - 8. You do not have to register for the

conference to attend the IPMA annual meeting – but please notify the IPMA office if you plan on attending the annual meeting ONLY.

The IPMA Board will review the past year’s activities of the association and elect your IPMA leaders.

- [Click Here](#) for the Nominating Committee Report.
- [Click Here](#) for the Proposed FY 2024 Budget.

You can register online for the entire conference through the [IPMA website](#). 🦋

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the Indiana Podiatric Medical Association met via e-mail and telephone. The following members have been contacted via e-mail and telephone and all have agreed to serve if elected:

Second Vice President Gage Caudell, DPM
Secretary-Treasurer Zahid Ladha, DPM
North Trustee (2 year term) (Partial Term) Eric Rindlisbacher, DPM
Central Trustee (3 year term) Sarah Standish, DPM
APMA Delegate Zahid Ladha, DPM
APMA Delegate Sandra Raynor, DPM
APMA Delegate Brian Damitz, DPM
APMA Alternate Delegate Patricia Moore, DPM
APMA Alternate Delegate Wendy Goldstein, DPM

Board Members with remaining years on their current term for 2024 are as follows:

South Trustee (3 year term).....Matt Lining, DPM

The IPMA Bylaws were changed in 2017 to create an automatic ascension of the officer positions on the IPMA Board. These officer positions need no further voting:

President Kathleen Toepp-Neuhoff, DPM
President-Elect Nathan Graves, DPM
First Vice President Michael Carroll, DPM
Immediate Past President Cathy Coker, DPM

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Coker, DPM | Chair, IPMA Nominating Committee

You do not have to register for the conference to attend the IPMA annual meeting – but please notify the IPMA office if you plan on attending the annual meeting ONLY.

If you do plan to attend any of the other functions at the conference, please register online through the IPMA website.

RAPID MODERNIZATION: MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AGENCY

BY GRANT M. ACHENBACH AND STEPHANIE T. ECKERLE

After the passage of transformative legislation and the announcement of groundbreaking new administrative processes, the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) is poised to undergo a rapid modernization. This evolution will be much broader in scope and implemented at a faster pace than the norm for state agencies. These changes will be important to understand for anyone who represents licensed professionals or entities in the healthcare field.

A slew of changes intended to modernize the PLA's operations were enacted by the Indiana General Assembly during the 2023 legislative session in [House Enrolled Act \(HEA\) 1460](#). Many of the changes are effective July 1, 2023. Here's a quick rundown:

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

After July 1, 2023, boards that regulate licensed professionals may meet and conduct business electronically, so long as they meet physically in person at least one time per calendar year. The legislature also enacted provisions that deal specifically with situations involving technology issues that may arise during virtual meetings.

PUBLIC POSTING OF INFORMATION

Ever tried and failed to find an agenda or meeting minutes for a regulatory board? Beginning July 1, 2023, each board's agendas, public meeting minutes, and vacancies are statutorily required to be posted online in accordance with strict timelines.

APPLICATIONS

Beginning January 1, 2024, all applications must be submitted electronically unless an individual specifically asks for a paper application. Also, starting July 1, 2023, the PLA is required to send notifications of incomplete items to applicants every 14 calendar days after submission of an initial application.


BOARD APPOINTMENTS

When a vacancy on a regulatory board occurs, the Governor will

now have 90 days to appoint an individual to the board. If this timeline is not met, the PLA is permitted to fill the vacancy. This new process should come as a welcome relief to any client who has been stymied by the inability of a board to conduct business due to a lack of quorum.

In addition to the legislative changes described above, PLA will be rolling out new administrative processes to further modernize how they interact with constituents.

First, PLA announced significant changes to its **rulemaking** processes. Once implemented, these processes will be uniform across all regulatory boards overseen by PLA. When rules are necessary (due to legislative directive, board action, or request from a stakeholder group or association), the PLA's Deputy General Counsel will form a subcommittee of relevant board members, the Office of the Attorney General, and interested parties. Once draft rules are compiled based on the subcommittee's work, they will be presented to the proper regulatory board to then move through the process. In addition, PLA has increased rulemaking manpower through a memorandum of understanding with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Second, PLA may be revisiting their longstanding policy of not offering informal guidance or advice. Look for the development of bulletins from regulatory boards regarding issues pertinent to each profession. PLA is also considering forms through which licensed professionals can request specific guidance from their board. Either change, if ultimately implemented, would create a new mechanism for communication between regulatory boards and their licensed professionals that would be unprecedented. If you have questions about the information found in this alert, please contact [Grant M. Achenbach](#) or [Stephanie T. Eckerle](#). 

Disclaimer. The contents of this article should not be construed as legal advice or a legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. The contents are intended for general informational purposes only, and you are urged to consult with counsel concerning your situation and specific legal questions you may have.

HOW TO PRIORITIZE TASKS

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO EFFICIENCY

In the bustling modern world, being flooded with tasks is a common scenario. The ability to prioritize tasks is not just a skill but a necessity. Here's a concise guide to help you master the art.

Understand the Big Picture: Begin by understanding your goals. What are you trying to achieve? Jot down the objectives and vision, be it for a project or your personal life. Knowing the destination makes the journey clearer.

Eisenhower Box Method: Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "What is important is seldom urgent and what is urgent is seldom important." Using this, categorize tasks into four boxes: 1. Urgent and Important: Do these immediately; 2. Important, Not Urgent: Schedule these; Urgent, Not Important: Delegate if possible; Neither Urgent nor Important: Reconsider or possibly eliminate.

The 2-Minute Rule: If a task can be done in 2 minutes or less, do it right away. Procrastinating on such tasks only adds clutter.

Break Tasks into Steps: For larger tasks, break them into smaller, manageable steps. Prioritize these steps accordingly.

Avoid Multitasking: Contrary to popular belief, multitasking can reduce productivity. Focus on one task at a time. It boosts efficiency and ensures quality.

Regularly Re-evaluate: Priorities change. Revisit your task list often. What was crucial last week might be less relevant today.

Remember, prioritizing is not about doing more tasks; it's about doing more of what matters. By effectively sorting your tasks, you can achieve clarity, reduce stress, and move closer to your goals with confidence. 🦋

Dr. Peter Wishnie is the founder of Family Foot and Ankle Specialists in New Jersey. He is the author of "The Podiatry Practice Business Solution". He is also the Director of Physician Programs and Practice Management Consultant for Top Practices Virtual Practice Management institute. You can find out more about Top Practices Management Programs at www.TopPractices.com.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FOLLOW-UP

BY MARY-ELLEN SCHIMMOLLER
INDEPENDENT NETWORKING GROUP, INC.

There was a recent article picked up by many news sites regarding Cigna Healthcare utilizing AI to deny legitimate insurance claims in California. The class action lawsuit claims that Cigna's system denied about 300,000 pre-approved claims, spending an average of 1.2 seconds to deny each claim.

Those of us who have worked in healthcare for a while know that this type of thing has been happening with a variety of payers. In fact, there are a couple of insurance carriers that are routinely denying foot care services as not covered when performed with another foot care service. Typically, these are the 1105X codes and the 1172X codes, even when a 59 modifier has been appropriately appended to the secondary procedure and the documentation supports the medical necessity of the services.

An important point to know about the Cigna debacle is that when the denied claims were appealed by Cigna customers,

around 80 percent of the initial decisions were overturned. As with any carrier that denies your claims that you feel should be paid, you have options to appeal the denial. Each carrier has specific policies and/or forms that you will need to utilize to submit your appeal and there may be a time limit from the date of receipt of your denial.

Your appeal should include the rationale under which you believe you should be paid. This may include referencing, or including a copy of the carrier policy showing where the service should have been covered, supported by the note from the visit. Once your appeal is filed with the carrier, make sure to verify that the payer has received the appeal and it is in process.

Unfortunately, the volume of these denials is increasing across the myriad of carriers that we work with on a regular basis. It is imperative that you have a sound process to recoup the revenue that you are due. It's all about the follow-up. 🦋

Mary-Ellen Schimmoller is the Executive Director with Independent Networking Group, Inc. Learn more at ingstrategies.com.

HOW TO DEFINE A SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

BY REM JACKSON, PRESIDENT & CEO
TOP PRACTICES

The dictionary defines success as “the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.” I like that because it implies that you’ve defined and worked to achieve a specific goal. I recently was asked to define what I think defines a successful practice. I chose to look at it in two ways.

First, I approached this definition from a high-level view. I shared three keys to what I’ve come to see as success for my Top Practices members and it’s what we work to achieve together.

Let’s define successful:

- You Enjoy Your Work
- You Have a Good Work/Home Life Balance
- Your Practice Funds Your Ideal Lifestyle

If you’ve achieved all three of the above: You enjoy your work and are delighted it is Monday morning so you can go back to work and serve your patients, Your work doesn’t come home at night or on the weekends and your family and home life is primary, and Your practices makes all the money you need to pay your bills, invest for the future, and enjoy your life now; then you’re successful.

I was pressed though to get more specific on the question and talk dollars and cents. So here is another way to look at a successful solo practitioner (obviously multiple doctor practices will have a different collected number, but the rest applies. My 17 years of experience guiding podiatrists to high performing practices enables me to tell you that if you collect \$1.2M in annual collections, generating \$1,000 (or more) every hour your practice is open, seeing patients for 48 weeks out of the year, 25 hours in the clinic and zero work at home, you are very successful!

Podiatrists are blessed to be in a profession that affords a great income, interesting varied work, and a great home/work life balance. The above should be your goal. If you need help with the rest, just email [Dave Ryan](mailto:dave.ryan@toppractices.com) to set up an appointment with me to talk about how you can do this too. 🦶

Rem Jackson is the President and CEO of Top Practices, LLC, and the leader of the Top Practices Master Mind Group. Top Practices is a company dedicated to helping podiatrists thrive in private practice through its marketing and management programs. Rem is a Fellow of the AAPP and the recipient of the AAPP President’s Award for 2012. He was inducted into Podiatry Management’s Podiatric Hall of Fame in 2019. He is the author of “Podiatry Prosperity: How to Market Manage and Love Your Practice.” Rem can be reached at rem@toppractices.com. You can find out more about Top Practices at www.TopPractices.com



APMA COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CMS' MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS

APMA submitted comments in response to [CMS' Medicare and Medicaid Programs: CY 2024 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment, etc.](#), on September 11. APMA's extensive comments focused on the following concerns, among others:

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE (MPFS) CONVERSION FACTOR

APMA is urging CMS to pursue opportunities to mitigate the impact of the proposed conversion factor reductions for 2024, including working with Congress to enact a legislative remedy. We further urge CMS to engage with Congress and stakeholders to develop and enact real reform to the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) that ensures physicians can consistently rely on sustainable payments over the long term.

EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (E/M) VISITS

CMS is planning to activate HCPCS G2211. APMA opposes CMS' proposal to change the status indicator for G2211 to "active" and begin payment for this service for several reasons:

- Instituting payment for G2211 will introduce disruptions to the resource-based relative value units (RVUs) under the PFS
- Instituting payment for G2211 compromises the progress of recent improvements to E/M coding and will cause confusion among practitioners
- Changes could unfairly impact practitioners who may not be able to utilize the code due to the need to maintain budget neutrality
- The CPT code set already contains codes to represent services typically employed when providing ongoing care related to a patient's single, serious condition or a complex condition.

TELEPHONE E/M SERVICES

APMA appreciates ongoing payment for telephone E/M services through 2024 and asks that this policy be made permanent.

APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA FOR ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

APMA applauds and supports CMS' proposal to pause efforts to implement the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services program for reevaluation and to rescind the current AUC program regulations.

PAYMENT FOR SKIN SUBSTITUTES

APMA urges CMS to move away from its attachment to changing the methodology for paying for skin substitutes furnished in physician offices and treating them as "incident to supplies." Instead, APMA believes CMS should continue its long-standing policy of recognizing and providing separate payment for these products under the ASP methodology described in section 1847A of the Social Security Act (SSA). ASP pricing would ensure

that there is differentiated payment for differentiated products. Different products deliver different benefits to patients, and they vary in composition, cost, and size.

APMA COMMENTS ON CY2024 MPFS, QPP, AND OPPTS

CMS proposes to raise the MIPS performance threshold from 75 to 82 points. APMA believes that most clinicians who have not fully participated in MIPS since 2019 will find this goal to be unsurmountable. Under the rules set forth by Congress, CMS is only required to set the threshold at the mean or median of the final scores of all MIPS eligible clinicians from a "prior period" identified by CMS, meaning CMS has the authority already to maintain the performance threshold at 75 points for 2024. Given the reality of numerous recent exemptions and reduced participation in the program, APMA strongly urges CMS to maintain the performance threshold at 75 points and to work with Congress to find solutions that will give CMS more flexibility to determine the most appropriate performance threshold(s) for future years.

APMA also submitted comments on the [CY 2024 Proposed Rule on Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems; etc.](#) APMA, as a member of the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders, supported the comments of the alliance and asked CMS to implement the recommendations provided to and approved by the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment. These recommendations, if implemented by CMS, will help correct the flaws that exist in the payment methodology as well as inappropriate APC assignments for cellular and or tissue-based products for skin wounds (CTPs) which have impacted access to care in hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs). The recommendations included:

- Assign the existing CPT® add-on codes (15272, 15276, 15274, and 15278) and HCPCS codes (C5272, C5276, C5274, and C5278) to appropriate APC groups allowing for separate payment and issue an exception to separately pay for these add-on codes
- Assign the CPT and HCPCS codes for the same size wound, regardless of anatomical location on the body, to the same APC groups
- Assign all new CTPs with both Q and A HCPCS codes, to the low-cost APC groups until a manufacturer provides cost information to CMS
- Realign both the high-cost and low-cost application procedure codes to higher paying APC groups that reflect the current average sales prices of all CTPs
- Not assign CTPs that are not in sheet form (e.g., gel, powder, ointment, foam, liquid, or injected) to any APC group. 🚫

Read both comment letters in their entirety at www.apma.org/comments. Contact the APMA Health Policy and Practice Department with questions.

NEW WORKGROUPS TO TACKLE -25 MODIFIER AND CCI EDITS

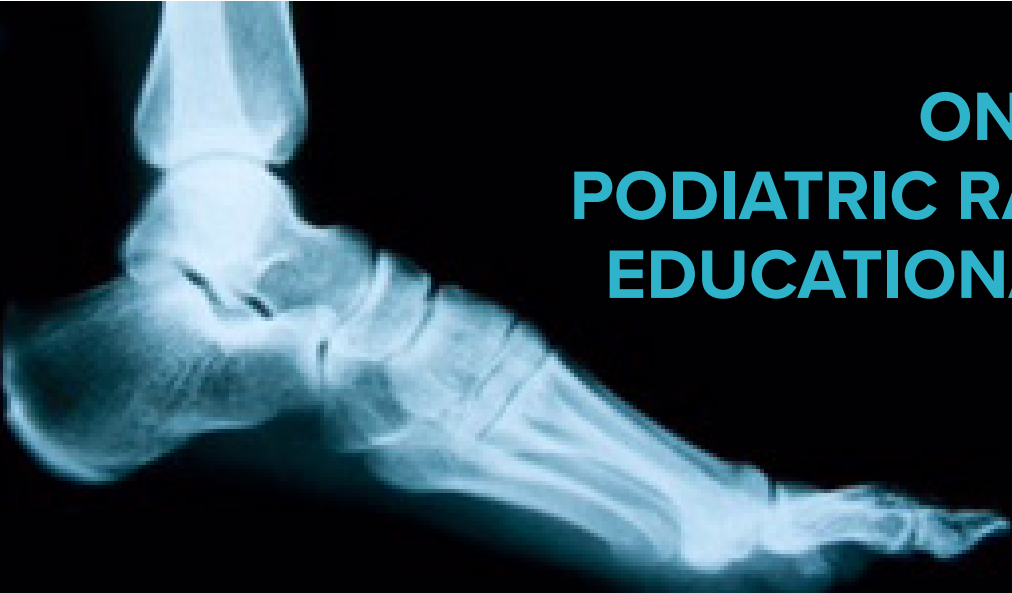
APMA recently created two new workgroups that emerged from discussions at APMA's Health Policy and Practice Committee and Coding Committee annual meetings May 12–13. These workgroups have been established to address significant issues facing APMA's membership and to further APMA's commitment to member education.

The first workgroup was formed to address Evaluation and Management (E/M) Codes billed with minor surgical procedures and the -25 modifier. APMA established a -25 modifier workgroup in 2019 to address efforts by insurance companies, including Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs), to deny or reduce payments billed with the -25 modifier. APMA became aware at that time that our members may require additional understanding of the intricacies of coding related to the -25 modifier. As a reminder, the -25 modifier is used when a significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service with no work inherent in the procedure itself by the

same physician occurs on the same day of the procedure or other service. Based on that need, APMA's workgroup developed tools and resources available at www.apma.org/25modifier. The new workgroup intends to build upon the successes of the earlier workgroup and develop additional tools and resources to supplement gaps in education that still exist for APMA's membership. For more details and updates on the -25 modifier, visit our dedicated resource page at www.apma.org/25modifier.

The second workgroup was established to address APMA's advocacy efforts related to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE), with a goal of identifying opportunities for additional CCI and MUE advocacy and determining what types of additional education may be beneficial for APMA members. For a refresher on CCI Edits, [view a webinar](#) produced by APMA's Coding Committee. 🏥

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to participate as the workgroups address these vital issues.



ONLINE LIMITED PODIATRIC RADIOGRAPHY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) requires all podiatric medical assistants who take x-rays to be licensed as a limited podiatric radiographer. The IPMA offers a limited podiatric radiography program that meets the ISDH requirements and is designed to instruct the podiatry assistant in the safe and effective use of x-rays in the podiatric practice.

To learn more about this program or to register, [click here](#).

IPMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2023 IPMA membership dues were sent out this Spring. Simply fill out the payment information, make any needed changes to the contact information, and return to us.

If you have any questions or concerns about your 2023 renewal, please feel free to contact [Trina Miller](#) in the IPMA office at 888.330.5589 and she will be happy to assist you with you questions.

Thank you for continued support of IPMA and the podiatric profession in Indiana.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

IPMA Annual Convention
October 5-8, 2023
Marriott Indianapolis North
Indianapolis, Indiana

Midwest Podiatry Conference
April 11-14, 2024
Marriott Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

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