



Michigan Osteopathic Association

Department of Socio Economics

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Insurance & Third-Party Payer Committee and Health Care Partners of Michigan (HCPM)

Our Department of Socioeconomic Affairs has been continuing to work on the offerings available for our members. Our physician organization, Healthcare Partners of Michigan (HCPM), is increasing its membership with doctors looking for assistance in understanding healthcare reimbursement and government restraints on our practices. The MOA Department of Socio Economics relies on input from Health Care Partners of Michigan (HCPM) to successfully fulfill its objectives and goals. Health Care Partners of Michigan (HCPM), the first physician organization (PO) to be created by a Michigan Osteopathic organization, was established by the MOA to provide clinical support and education for primary and specialty care physicians, mid-level providers and behavioral health specialists to develop and sustain high performing independent practices focused on patient health and wellness. They have been instrumental in researching and resolving claim problems submitted by our member on behalf of the department eliminating the need for the Insurance & Third Party Payer Committee to meet. Ewa Matuszewski and Mark Lazar, representing HCPM, continue to attend many meetings on timely issues that are compelling to our membership, department, and association in general. HCPM continues to have a presence on the MOA website www.domoa.org/hcpm and features articles on the issues at the forefront of patient care in the TRIAD and PULSE on a regular basis.

Introduction of Palliative Care into Primary Care

During the pandemic crisis, the HCPM identified the need to train primary care physicians, their care teams and other healthcare professionals on the importance of weaving the concepts of palliative care into the day-to-day care provided to the chronically ill patient population. HCPM feels that palliative care:

- affirms life and regards dying as a normal process
- neither hastens nor postpones death
- integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of care
- offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death
- engages the family and caregiver in providing supportive care

HCPM plans to offer a series of virtual or in-person trainings beginning in 2021. The Palliative Care courses will include topics such as:

- communication strategies
- generational differences
- motivational interviewing
- shared decision making
- spiritual, cultural, and psychological aspects of palliative care
- legal and regulatory issues
- Advance Directives and POLST

Intermediate and Advanced Care Team Training

During the COVID-19 crisis, it became clear that physicians must rely on care teams in their practices. As HCPM began receiving and reviewing the “Practice Readiness to Open” checklist, it became clear that physicians felt the need to do everything themselves. HCPM training will utilize the USA Olympic Coaching and IHI Breakthrough Series learning collaborative approach to train physicians and their teams on various aspects of team building. HCPM recognizes that patient care and outcomes would be significantly improved using this approach. In addition, this training would include best practices for telehealth and remote patient monitoring utilization.

Implicit Bias Training

The BCBSM Quarterly PGIP Meeting, held on September 25th provided an excellent overview of Implicit Bias: causes, effects, and prevention, including the four “E’s” exposure, experience, education, and empathy. During the height of the pandemic, the MOA Education Committee decided to offer Implicit Bias Training at our Spring 2021 Conference. The keynote speaker will be Debalina Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., Administrative Director/Academic Specialist from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Additionally, Telva McGruder, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for General Motors and William Anderson, DO have been invited to share their stories at the conference.

In addition, we will be aggressively promoting the unconscious bias training that PCPs and their practice teams must complete by June 30, 2021 in order to retain their VBR. In addition and to help insure that everyone gets the training, HCPM offered a one hour program during the One Stop LARA event hosted by Oakland and Macomb County Osteopathic Medical Associations in March. This is important because BCBSM physicians participating in the PGIP program and designated as Patient Centered Medical Homes will need to engage in unconscious bias educational opportunities over the next few months to continue to receive the associated value-based reimbursement tied to the PCMH designation. Not to mention that on July 9, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a directive that requires medical professionals to go through implicit (unconscious) bias training when obtaining or renewing their licenses.

Connecting Care Between Specialists and Primary Care

HCPM understands that effective, integrated care for medically complex patients requires coordination between primary care physicians (PCPs) and the health care system and a high degree of physician engagement. However, some of our DO PCPs in solo practices, small group practices, or non-PCMH practices might not be well connected with the broader health care system. This means that communication between primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialists regarding referrals and consultations is often inadequate, with negative consequences for patients.

This goes back to documentation training. One major factor in communication is poor documentation of chronic diseases to assist the specialist in treating the patient’s ailments accurately. Then it goes the other way with poor follow-up by the specialist to inform the PCP on actions and treatments provided during their referral. It is our hope that the training that HCPM plans to provide will assist our physicians in better patient care, better reimbursement and better communication between PCP’s and Specialists in the future.

If you are not already connected to a Physician Organization or looking for a new one, take a look at HCPM for your PO needs.

