



Na Leo Ola

Newsletter of the Hawaii Medical Association

Volume 3, Issue 11

November 2023

Introducing the New HMA Membership Discount Program

HMA is always exploring ways to bring more physicians into the HMA 'ohana. As our organization continues to grow, our influence and ability to effect positive change in Hawaii's healthcare landscape also increases. We're making membership one of our top priorities in 2024, and to help kick off our drive, we're announcing new membership discounts to help make belonging to HMA more affordable.

JABSOM

In recognition of our long-standing relationship with JABSOM we're offering a 20% discount to all JABSOM-affiliated physicians. This also applies to non-compensated JABSOM lecturers. Use the code JABSOM to receive your discount.

Neighbor Island Physicians

We want to bring more physicians from our neighbor islands into HMA; your firsthand experience with physicians shortages are crucial in our fight for improving access to care. Use the code NEIGHBOR to receive your 20% discount.

HRS

HMA has a management agreement with the Hawaii Radiological Society, and the members of their specialty organization are eligible to a 20% discount. Use the code HRS to receive your discount.

Non-Practicing Physicians

There are a number of physicians who fill administrative roles in their organizations; HMA represents you as well. Receive a 20% discount by using the code NPP.

... continued on page 2

President's Message

by Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD,
FSIR, FACR



Aloha kakou
and a warm
Happy
Thanksgiving to
you all.

Ready or not
the holiday season is upon us, and
if you are like me, it can be tough
finding a microsecond of peace to
contemplate one's blessings.

Certainly grief, outrage and fear
bombard us from global strife
and regional economic woes,
and Hawaii physicians must face
a harsh and unrelenting course
daily as we navigate our patients'
problems together. Yet our central
power to help and heal each other
is crucial. It is the incredible
commitment, infinite kindness,
masterful teamwork and tireless
courage of our HMA members
for which I am most grateful this
holiday season.

Look to your colleagues in clinics,
the hospital halls and even in
those dry administrative meetings,
and recognize the love and beauty
of your section, team or unit.

... continued on page 2

Executive Director's Message *by Marc Alexander*



Once again the HMA was represented by a full delegation to the American Medical Association's Interim Meeting (November 10-15, 2023), held at National Harbor, Maryland, in the Washington, DC area. Over 600 delegates were present representing physicians from all over the United States. Close to 40 executives from the state medical societies were also in attendance. A summary from the Interim Meeting is available at www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/interim-meeting/highlights-2023-ama-interim-meeting. I encourage all physicians and patients to read the summary and take advantage of the various links to additional resources.

I'll highlight a few actions of local interest. The House of Delegates made it abundantly clear that Medicare must be fixed. Adjusting for inflation, physicians have faced a 26% reduction in Medicare pay since 2001, making it increasingly difficult to care for their patients, and dangerously impacting patient access to quality care. And another 3.37% cut is set to take effect in January 2024. Visit the www.fixmedicarenow.org website for more information and resources.

AMA wants to make sure clinical trials can include as many of our patients as possible. AMA policy now advocates that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) require Medicare Advantage plans to pay for routine costs associated with clinical trials, that physicians and other healthcare professionals are paid directly without patients being billed, and coverage is included for out-of-network consultations for clinical trials.

The AMA continues to advocate strongly for physician-led healthcare teams to ensure all patients receive high quality care. They are very concerned about a movement toward a two-tier system, where money determines access to quality care. While supporting non-physician providers offering care within the scope of their training and education, non-physician providers must be appropriately supervised by physicians, "the most highly educated, trained, and skilled health professionals" (AMA).

President's Message *... continued from page 1*

As gratitude is the affirmation of goodness, I am so thankful to each and every one of you for your continued support and engagement with HMA.

Wishing you a harvest of blessings and peace.



Conversations at HMA hosted Corrie Sanders, PharmD, BCACP, CPGx, from Huna Health, who gave a very informative presentation on

pharmacogenomics guidelines, current coverage options and clinical implications across various practice settings. This presentation will be available on the HMA YouTube Channel beginning November 30.

HMA Member Discount Program

... continued from page 1

JABSOM Students

We're hoping our students at JABSOM will choose to practice in Hawaii upon graduation, and we know how important it is for new physicians to have a network of experienced doctors they can call on for advice. Thanks to the generosity of the Honolulu County Medical Society, student dues are complimentary for the first year! Use the code STUDENT to receive your free first year membership.

Residents

Similarly, medical residents can get their first year of HMA membership free! Use the code RESIDENT to receive your complimentary first year membership.

We hope these discounts will be useful to prospective members and help to grow the HMA 'ohana. If you know of colleagues who could benefit from this discount program and HMA membership, please share this information and be a part of our membership growth.

Membership Begins with ME

While incentives like the discount program can be helpful, the very best recruiting is done by our existing membership. Talk to your colleagues about the importance of HMA membership and encourage them to join. Let's double our representation in 2024!



Insurance
by physicians,
for physicians.

800.227.4527 | miec.com