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COLORADO  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

ASAP e-newsletter: March 14, 2024

## Help CMS defend Colorado tort environment from attack

Two proposed ballot initiatives from the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association are advancing through the legal process and your urgent support is needed to stop them. These ballot initiatives aim to remove peer review protections, which would significantly decrease quality of care and medical protections, and eliminate caps on non-economic damages, skyrocketing our state's liability and medical malpractice insurance costs.

### What you can do:

- Get informed and become an advocate: **Invite a CMS representative to present to your practice, group or hospital.** Email [kate\\_alfano@cms.org](mailto:kate_alfano@cms.org) to schedule.
- **Donate online, by check** made to Colorado Medical Society with Liability Defense Fund in the memo section and mailed to 7351 E. Lowry Blvd, Ste. 110, Denver, CO 80230, **or by phone** at 720-859-1001. A donation of any amount will help make a **strong public statement** from the medical community, and you will be added to our priority communications list for the latest updates as our counter efforts progress.
- **Spread the word** to your family, friends and community groups: Initiatives #149 and #150 are bad for Colorado patients, physicians, families and businesses. [Read this fact sheet for 5 reasons to oppose the CTLA-supported ballot measures.](#)

Stay tuned to CMS publications as more information is available.

## Change Healthcare cyber issue: CMS advocacy for you and resources from the AMA

As you know, Change Healthcare began experiencing a cyber security issue in late February and isolated its systems to prevent further impact. UnitedHealth Group estimates that it will take up to a month or more to fully restore its medical claims processing -- a delay that has left many organizations in financial distress. Your state and national medical societies have been actively advocating for affected physicians.

- Colorado Medical Society President Omar Mubarak, MD, MBA, urged the Colorado Commissioner of Insurance to demand prompt payment of claims by carriers to physicians, and that the carriers accurately and completely report all payment delays. [Read his letter here](#).
- The American Medical Association has been in active discussions with the Biden Administration, UnitedHealth Group and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, among others. They launched a [dedicated webpage](#) for the latest updates and invite AMA members to submit information about their experiences to [ama.advocacy@ama-assn.org](mailto:ama.advocacy@ama-assn.org) for use in discussions with federal agencies and organizations.

## Two-minute survey: We need your help to improve CMS Continuing Medical Education

We have just three asks:



- Rate the importance of five topics on a scale of 1 to 5
- Choose your top 3 preferred educational formats
- Give us other topics, areas of interest, or suggestions

[Complete the three-question survey here](#). All responses will be kept anonymous.

## Medical students - Apply for CMS scholarships: deadline April 5



Time is running out to apply for two medical student scholarships from the Colorado Medical Society Education Foundation.

The **Alfred D. Gilchrist Student Leader Scholarship** is open to third- and fourth-year Colorado medical students who have demonstrated a significant leadership contribution to organized medicine. Deadline: April 5, 2024. [Read more here](#).

The **Rural Track Scholarship** is open to Colorado medical students finishing their first year of a rural medicine track or program. Deadline: April 5, 2024. [Read more here.](#)

Questions? Contact [kate\\_alfano@cms.org](mailto:kate_alfano@cms.org).

## CMS webinar - Grief: What it is and how to cope moving forward

Tuesday, April 30, 6-7 p.m.

The Colorado Medical Society is committed to helping physicians when you need help. Part of our goal to increase wellbeing, the CMS Committee on Physician Wellbeing will host the first in a wellbeing webinar series on Tuesday, April 30, 6-7 p.m. Through "Grief: What it is and how to cope moving forward," you will learn:

- How to identify and articulate the seven phases of grief,
- How to analyze the various ways grief may affect physicians – both mentally and physically, and
- How to identify 3-4 resources and coping mechanisms to process grief.

Experts speakers Lise Barbour, MD, and Lisa Schlitzkus, MD -- both trained in palliative medicine -- will lead attendees through this session. The webinar will be recorded and sent to registrants after the live broadcast. [Register here!](#)



CMS Committee on Physician Wellbeing presents a webinar:

### Grief: What it is and how to cope moving forward

Live April 30, 6-7 p.m. or on-demand

Register on CMS.org/events





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CMS, Delta Dental, and COPIC FSG have teamed up to offer CMS members an affordable dental benefits program for their employees and families. Contact John Kaufman, [jkaufman@copic.com](mailto:jkaufman@copic.com) to learn more.

**Providing Value Beyond Coverage.**

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## RIHEL ALTP Applications are open!

Applications accepted through April 26

For over 25 years, Advanced Leadership Training Program (ALTP) has supported health and environmental professionals with engaging and enriching learning experiences.

This year-long program provides a foundation of **exemplary leadership practices** focusing on: justice and belonging; collaboration and teamwork; coaching and practical skills.

The next cohort runs from August 2024 through May 2025. [View program details.](#)



## Empowering Colorado: Medication disposal for safer communities

Medication safety is a shared responsibility. Guide your patients in the proper disposal of unused medications to reduce the risk of misuse and accidents. Find your nearest drop box at

[TakeMedsSeriously.org/safe-disposal](http://TakeMedsSeriously.org/safe-disposal). [More information here.](#)



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## Medical Transcription Services

### Busy vs. Kinda Sorta Maybe Busy

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DITTO

3801 E Florida Ave - Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80210 - 720.287.3710

Panacea Financial has opened their 2024 application for **\$5,000 medical school scholarships** for students from underrepresented ethnic and racial minorities. [More information and application link here.](#)



## Job board

- **Telluride Regional Medical Center seeks to hire an experienced Primary Care Physician.** Telluride Regional Medical Center (TRMC) is seeking a full-time Family Medicine or Med-Peds Physician to be part of our primary care team serving our community of local residents and visitors and members of our neighboring communities. [Read more here](#) or apply at <https://jobs.tellmed.org>



Do you have a position open at your practice? Space to sub-let? Selling your practice? Place a job board or classified ad with CMS! CMS members receive the first month free. Contact [debra.will@cms.org](mailto:debra.will@cms.org) for more information!

## Upcoming CMS meetings and events

All Colorado Medical Society committee meetings and events are open to all CMS members and you are welcome to attend! All are held via Zoom unless otherwise noted. Find a full list of events here: [cms.org/events](https://cms.org/events). Questions? Contact [membership@cms.org](mailto:membership@cms.org).



- **DEI Committee** (virtual) - Thursday, March 14, 6-7:30 p.m. Email [kate\\_alfano@cms.org](mailto:kate_alfano@cms.org) to register
- **Council on Legislation** (virtual) - Wednesday, March 20, 6-7:30 p.m. Email [chet\\_seward@cms.org](mailto:chet_seward@cms.org) for more information
- **Council on Legislation** (virtual) - Wednesday, March 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Email [chet\\_seward@cms.org](mailto:chet_seward@cms.org) for more information
- **Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury Committee** (virtual) - Wednesday, April 3, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Email [chet\\_seward@cms.org](mailto:chet_seward@cms.org) for more information
- **Council on Legislation** (hybrid) - Wednesday, April 3, 6-7:30 p.m. In person at the CMS office in Denver or via Zoom. Email [chet\\_seward@cms.org](mailto:chet_seward@cms.org) for more information
- **Council on Legislation** (virtual) - Wednesday, April 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Email [chet\\_seward@cms.org](mailto:chet_seward@cms.org) for more information
- **Committee on Physician Wellbeing** (virtual) - Tuesday, April 16, 6-7 p.m. Email [kate\\_alfano@cms.org](mailto:kate_alfano@cms.org) to register

Registration is required for most meetings; non-members or those unable to be identified at the time of virtual meetings may be removed. Unsure if you are a CMS member? [Verify your membership here](#).

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Let's connect!

