

**Administrative Office: 805 / 484-6822**

**www.venturamedical.org**

**October 12, 2016**

**RSVP NOW!**

**Annual OSHA Staff Training  
Session**

**Wednesday, October 26**

**11:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

Location: Courtyard by Marriott

600 E. Esplanade Dr., Oxnard

This workshop provides up-to-date changes and practice requirements to meet the OSHA mandates.

OSHA mandates training of all staff in every physician's office, each year. Carrie Champness always brings a fresh presentation with new updates, interesting examples and strategies to have full compliance.

**RSVP by Oct. 21 at (805) 484-6822**

**CMA TO TACKLE SIX MAJOR ISSUES  
AT ANNUAL MEETING THIS WEEKEND**

**The 145th Annual Session of the  
California Medical Association (CMA)  
House of Delegates (HOD) will tackle  
six major issues when it convenes  
October 15-16, 2016, at the  
Sacramento Convention Center.**

Beginning this year, the HOD will establish broad policy on current major issues that have been determined to be the most important issues affecting members, the association and the practice of medicine. Reports on these major issues are now available for download and comment through October 7. All members are welcome to submit comments online at [www.cmanet.org/hod](http://www.cmanet.org/hod).

**MACRA:** As the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) is implemented over the next several years, the CMA will be working hard to ensure it is workable for practicing physicians and improves patient care. The CMA House of Delegates will be discussing various recommendations to guide CMA's policy on this issue.

**ACA Changes:** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a process by which states were given exclusions from specified provisions of the ACA without penalty, known as the Section 1332 Waiver. The intent was to allow states to be inventive in

how they delivered care even if the state's methods differed from the federal administration's vision. Beginning in 2017, states can request a five-year renewable exemption on key coverage provisions within the ACA, including those related to benefits and subsidies, the exchanges, and the individual and employer mandates. The CMA House of Delegates will discuss various recommendations related to a possible Section 1332 waiver for California.

**Maintenance of Certification:** CMA supports the highest standards for licensure that are based on education, training, experience and ethical criteria. The delegates will discuss various models and proposals regarding maintenance and recertification of specialty board certification, including alternative approaches.

**Opioids:** The issue of opioid-related misuse, abuse and overdose continues to be a major policy issue at the federal, state and regional levels. The delegates will discuss various strategies and policies that will promote prescribing controlled substances safely and effectively to relieve pain, while simultaneously reducing the risk of prescription medication misuse, addiction and overdose.

**Physician Burnout:** Recognizing that it is the responsibility of the medical community to identify risk factors for and appropriately respond to signs of physician burnout, the CMA House of Delegates will explore strategies to preserve the physical and mental well-being of physicians.

**Five-Year Public Health Plan:** For many decades, CMA has taken an active role in championing notable and successful public health policy campaigns that promote healthy practices and behaviors. Continuing its commitment to public health, the CMA House of Delegates will develop a five-year plan that prioritizes strategies to prevent and treat chronic disease and supports healthy and safe communities, focusing on the following areas: adult and childhood obesity, tobacco use, pain, behavior health disorders, violence and infectious disease.

Contact: Michelle Chapanian, (800) 786-4262 or [mchapanian@cmanet.org](mailto:mchapanian@cmanet.org).

**BLUE SHIELD TO UPDATE FEE  
SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1**

Blue Shield recently announced changes to its physician fee schedule that will take effect December 1, 2016.

The new rates are now available on the Blue Shield website (under "Helpful Resources," click "Professional Fee Schedule" then click "Search the Claims Fee Schedule"). To view the new fees, change the default date of service on the "Search Fee Schedule" page to December 1, 2016, (effective date of the change).

Physicians can also request a copy of the new fees for up to 20 codes by completing the allowance review form enclosed with the notice, or by calling the Blue Shield Provider Information and Enrollment Department at (800) 258-3091. Blue Shield will provide a response to your inquiry within 10 business days.

As always, physicians are encouraged to carefully review all proposed amendments to health plan or medical group/IPA contracts. CMA reminds physicians that they do not have to accept substandard contracts that are not beneficial to their practice.

To help physicians understand their rights when a health plan has sent notice of a material change to a contract, CMA has published "Contract Amendments: An Action Guide for Physicians," available in CMA's online resource library. The guide includes a discussion of options available to physicians when presented with a material contract change, as well as a financial impact worksheet that will help physicians calculate the net impact of fee schedule changes on their practice.

**HARDWARE UPGRADES WILL  
IMPACT MEDI-CAL SYSTEMS IN  
OCTOBER**

Required systems upgrades to the California Medicaid Management Information System (CA-MMIS) are scheduled to take place during two weekends in October. This is an upgrade of the hardware where many Medi-Cal services run. Upgrades will start during the regular daily maintenance period, which begins at midnight, and will continue through extended maintenance windows on October 9 and October 16. During

these windows, providers will be unable to submit transactions.

To reduce the impact on providers, upgrades are scheduled during a period when the systems are used less frequently.

A System Status Alert will be posted on the Medi-Cal website the Friday before the scheduled system upgrades. The alert will provide additional details, including the anticipated extended maintenance window timeframe.

Providers who subscribe to the Medi-Cal Subscription Service and select the "System Status Alert" option will receive an email notification when an alert is posted on the Medi-Cal website.

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### **\$1.1 BILLION IN ZIKA FUNDING APPROVED BY CONGRESS**

Funding for public health efforts against the Zika virus was finally approved by Congress with the passage of a stopgap measure to avoid a federal government shutdown. The spending measure includes \$1.1 billion to fight the virus, capping a fierce months-long debate over the money that dismayed public health experts.

The White House first requested \$1.9 billion in funds to fight Zika in the spring. But Republicans initially resisted the request, before finally putting forward their own \$1.1 billion Zika funding bill in July. The Republicans' bill failed to pass this summer due to a rider that would have prevented funding of Planned Parenthood.

With more than 3,358 Zika cases in the U.S. (mostly from people who acquired the virus abroad) and another 19,777 cases in U.S. territories, the money will go towards areas like vaccine research and mosquito control.

Although most people infected with Zika have no symptoms, Zika infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly and other severe defects in the developing fetus.

The Aedes mosquitoes that carry the disease are not native to California, however they have been detected in 12 California counties in recent years. To date there has been no local mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus in California.

A team of experts across several disciplines at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working closely with local public health departments, vector control agencies and the medical community to ensure that California is

responding aggressively and appropriately to the emerging threat of Zika virus.

As of September 23, CDPH has confirmed 302 travel-associated Zika virus infections in 29 California counties. A total of 36 infections have been confirmed in pregnant women. CDPH has also confirmed that two infants with Zika-related microcephaly have been born in California to women who had Zika virus infections during pregnancy after spending time in a country where the virus is endemic.

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### **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS CAN NOW CERTIFY STATE DISABILITY AND FAMILY LEAVE CLAIMS**

In September 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that authorizes physician assistants (PAs) to certify disability insurance (DI) and paid family leave (PFL) claims after a physical examination and under physician supervision.

Individuals seeking DI or PFL benefits in California are required to file a claim that includes a certificate from a treating physician or practitioner. PAs in California were previously unable to certify these claims because they were not included in the definition of "practitioner."

For more information about the physician's role in certifying for benefits, view the Employment Development Department (EDD) Physician/Practitioner's Guide to Disability Insurance and Physician/Practitioner's Guide to Paid Family Leave brochures.

Physicians are also reminded that they can certify DI and PFL claims online via EDD's electronic claim filing system, SDI Online. The system allows physicians, practitioners, claimants, employers and voluntary plan administrators to submit claims and other supporting documents online. For more information about SDI Online or to establish a physician/practitioner account, visit [www.edd.ca.gov/disability](http://www.edd.ca.gov/disability).

For more information on the process of creating an SDI Online account and completing the online doctor's certificate, practices can listen to the California Medical Association's (CMA) on-demand webinar, "Utilizing the New State Disability Insurance (SDI) Online System."

For more information on PFL, see CMA's On-Call document #6203, "Family and Medical Leave." On-Call documents are available free to members in CMA's online health law library. Nonmembers can purchase documents for \$2/page.

Contact: [diboutreach@edd.ca.gov](mailto:diboutreach@edd.ca.gov)

## **Annual VCMA Installation Gala**

**Thursday, November 10**

**5:30-7pm Reception**

**7:-8:30pm Dinner & Program**

TOPA Tower Club  
300 E. Esplanade Dr., Oxnard

Congratulate William Theurer, MD 2017 President, the incoming Officers and thank the current Board for their service. Awesome 22<sup>nd</sup> floor views from the TOPA Tower Club, beautiful classical quartet music, socialize with colleagues and enjoy great food! 5:30-7pm Reception; 7-8:30pm dinner and program. Watch email for RSVP forms, or call 805/484-6822.

[RSVP by Oct. 31](#)

### **PHYSICIANS MUST POST NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENTS BY OCT. 16**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) recently finalized new nondiscrimination rules intended to advance health equity and reduce health care disparities. Under the rule, which implements section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, individuals are protected from discrimination in health care on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex, including discrimination based on pregnancy, gender identity and sex stereotyping.

This rule applies to those who provide or administer health-related services or insurance coverage and receive "federal financial assistance." Federal financial assistance includes Medicare, Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid, meaningful use payments, HHS grants, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services gain-sharing demonstration projects, federal premium and cost-sharing subsidies, etc.

The rule does not apply to physicians who participate only in Medicare Part B, unless they are also receiving meaningful use incentive payments.

Covered physicians must comply with the following requirements:

- By October 16, post a notice of nondiscrimination and taglines in the top 15 languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency. (Note that this date has been corrected since this story was first published.)

- Designate a compliance coordinator and adopt grievance procedures (applicable to group practices with 15 or more employees)
- Submit an assurance of compliance form to OCR

The rule also encourages covered entities to develop and implement a language access plan to ensure they are prepared to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to individuals who may require assistance. Physicians should already be in compliance with the existing Title VI provisions required under current law, which is outlined in CMA's On-Call document #6003, "Language Interpreters."

In an effort to answer questions members may have regarding compliance with new Federal nondiscrimination notice posting requirements, CMA has created a [FAQ resource](#) to help guide members.

The final rule includes new requirements with respect to *nondiscrimination postings and grievance procedures*. Physicians need to be in compliance with the rule by [October 16, 2016](#).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information go to Calendar Tab at [venturamedical.org](#)

**October 14 – CMA Organized Medical Staff Section Meeting**, Sacramento

**October 15-16 – CMA House of Delegates** Sacramento

**October 26 – Annual OSHA Staff Training Session** Courtyard by Marriot, Oxnard. This workshop provides up-to-date changes and practice requirements to meet the OSHA mandates. See page 1 for details. 11:30am-2:30pm, Marriott, Oxnard

**October 26 – American Politics Through a Healthcare Lens;**

5:30-7pm Museum of Ventura County  
100 East Main Street, Ventura  
Moderated By: Jim Hornstein, M.D. – Chair,  
CMHS Bioethics Committee  
Featured Speakers:

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson – District 19  
Lee Wan, M.D. – Past President of VCMA  
Republican Committee Representative

**November 10 – Annual VCMA**

**Installation Gala**, Tower Club, Oxnard. Congratulate William Theurer, MD 2017 President, the incoming Officers and thank the current Board for their service. See page 2. 5:30-7pm Reception; 7-8:30pm dinner and program. Watch email for RSVP forms.

### CMA WEBINARS

[www.cmanet.org](#) to pre-register

**October 19: Assembly Bill 72: Out-of-Network Billing: How it Works, Who it Impacts and How to Avoid it**  
12:15pm-1:15pm

**November 2: Is Your Practice at Risk for a HIPAA Security Breach?**  
12:15pm-1:15pm

**November 9: Nondiscrimination Statements: A Detailed Guide to Compliance** 12:15pm-1:15pm

### CLASSIFIEDS

Free listings for VCMA members. Submit ad info to: [marycarr@venturamedical.org](mailto:marycarr@venturamedical.org)

### PHYSICIANS WANTED

**Oxnard** – Rose Avenue Family Medical Group, established in 1980, looking to add a few doctors to their practice. Flexible work hours. For benefits and details, call Donna Davis 805/988-1443.

**Simi Valley** – full time FP MD needed at the Med Center. Hours are Monday 8am-8pm, alternating Tuesdays 8am -8pm, Fridays 8am -8pm and every other weekend 9am-5pm. Call Denise (805)583-5555 ex 23, or send resume: admin@medcenterofsimivalley.com

### SPACE AVAILABLE

**Camarillo** - Office with two to three exam rooms to share. Part time or full time. Affordable and flexible. Please contact (805)383-2929.

**Thousand Oaks** - Sublease up to 4 days per week; 7 exam rooms in prof. bldg. Please call Lynn at (805)482-8989

**Thousand Oaks** - 2700 SF office with large procedure room and recovery area, and 4 exam rooms. Available Mondays and Tuesdays 8 AM to 12 noon; Wednesdays 2 to 6 PM. More info, visit [www.AGImedical.com](#)

**Ventura** – For Lease: 500 sq.ft. Beautiful medical office on Brent St. (805)258-2059 ext.2447 for info.

**Westlake Village** – Remodeled, medical office for sublease. Available up to four days a week. (818)438-5997 [Brisbeee@aol.com](mailto:Brisbeee@aol.com)

### FOR SALE

**OB/GYN Equipment** - Colposcope, microscope, cryo gun, surgical and colposcopy instruments, speculum lights (Welsh Allen), chart racks, exam table, stools, office chairs, waiting room chairs, 10 station business phone system, endometrial samplers, ultrasound, leep system. Call (805) 535 4422

**Closing Practice Sale** - Family practice medical equipment for sale. Equipment includes exam tables, chart files, MidMark M9 UltraClave, AT-2 plus Schiller/WelchAllyn ECG recorder, printers and other equipment associated with family practice medicine. Call for pricing (805) 525-5518.

**Office Desk** - Mint condition desk unit with detachable wall unit with storage. Dark Wood; Original \$800; sell for \$300. Dr. Paul Rehder (805) 479-1086.

**Pediatric Practice Equipment** - Vaccine 4.3 cubic ft. refrigerator-freezer combo; paid \$1499, only used 4 months. (Best offer) WelchAllyn Rectal thermometer. \$100  
2 different sizes pediatric Aneroid Sphygmomanometers; \$30 ea. or \$50 both.  
SECA newborn scale \$70  
X-acto paper trimmer \$40  
Email: [spa.pinzonarellano@gmail.com](mailto:spa.pinzonarellano@gmail.com)

### MEMBER BENEFITS HI-LIGHTS

#### MERCER Insurance Programs

NEW Workers Comp Preferred plan, members receive 5% discount off premium. Many members' savings equal to VCMA/CMA annual dues. Disability, Life, Health & Business Overhead plans available, too. Call a Mercer Client Advisor at (800) 842-3761 or [cmacounty.insurance.service@mercer.com](mailto:cmacounty.insurance.service@mercer.com)

**Online CME:** new online CME platform from CMA's Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) provides access to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Easy tracking of course participation and credit. Discounts for CMA members. Catalog and register for courses at <http://imq.inreachce.com>.

**Resume Service:** Call 484-6822 or email [julie@venturamedical.org](mailto:julie@venturamedical.org) to request resumes to fill practice personnel positions. FREE to members.

#### Waste Management – NEW BENEFIT!

Any member currently under contract with another vendor can sign a letter of intent with Enviromerica now, and receive current low terms when their current contract ends.

Act now to take advantage of this special membership offer.

Contact Enviromerica 888-323-0583

#### Professional Liability:



has been endorsed by VCMA for the past 10 years. For quote or questions contact: [MLawrence@thedoctors.com](mailto:MLawrence@thedoctors.com)