

TMGMA ENEWS

January 2017



Message from the President

Happy New Year to each of you and your families! I'd like to reminisce on some of the events of this past holiday season and relax, but typically our jobs and busy lifestyles don't usually allow propping our feet on the desks, and enjoying a refreshing beverage. 2017 is going to be a constant change in our healthcare world, but as many of you are probably thinking.... So what's new about that?! The events of the New Year are quickly followed by updating patient de-

mographics, insurance cards, HIPAA forms, finding out unexpected policy changes to the insurance plans that we bill, and working staff to collect the copays and deductibles that roll back to \$0.

The New Year resets some things in TMGMA as well. Registration has opened for our business partners and will open this month for attendees to begin the registration process for the Spring Conference in April. Our Fall Legislative Conference planning begins very early into the New Year. National MGMA hosts leaders in Colorado to better equip the State Chapters with information to provide our members, and obtain feedback on what our members are needing to succeed in the healthcare industry. Scholarship opportunities are once again made available for our members to take advantage of for financial assistance in their MGMA Certification and Fellowship, or continuing education. I'm sure this year our Legislative Committee will have a constant ear to the ground ready to update as the new political team begins making their agenda and changes known. Webinars will once again be available to our members expanding to the availability of a new webinar each month in 2017. The new format to the ACMPE Exam begins in 2017 and we will want to ensure we prepare our members to be successful in the planning and participation in this test. Change is everywhere and we want to help you achieve it easier, or be ahead of it so that you don't feel you are chasing your tail.

If you haven't already renewed your membership, there is still time to complete the renewal online. All of our notifications, updates, and registrations will be announced on the website and through email to our connected members. We don't want you to miss out.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you in 2017!

Jeff McPherson, MBA, CMPE
President, Tennessee Medical Group Management Association

In This Issue

- Message from the President
- Webinar Series
- ACMPE Corner
- MGMA State Salary Survey
- Scholarship Information
- Legislative Update



SVMICTM

TMGMA's Preferred Malpractice Provider

Learn

Attend a Webinar



Upcoming Webinar

February 14 @ 1:00pm
[Developing a Career Plan for Career Change in Healthcare](#)

ACMPE CORNER

Now is the Time!

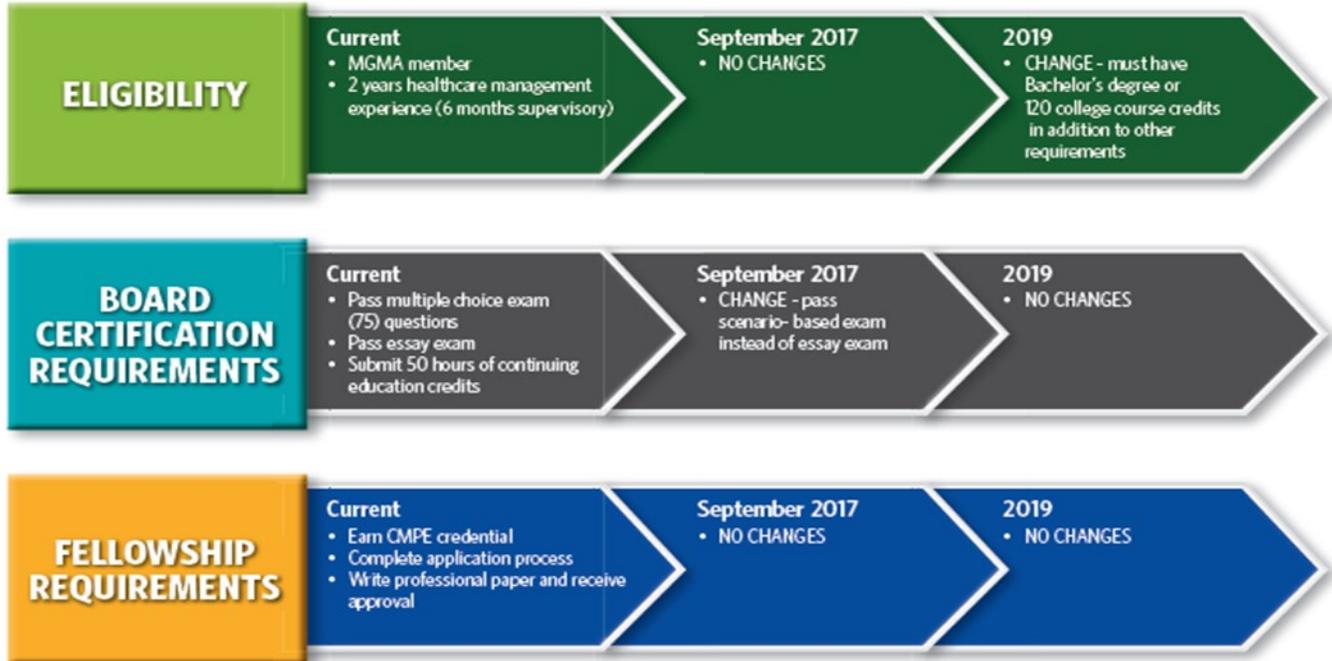
Become a **CMPE** (*Certified Medical Practice Executive*) or **FACMPE** (*Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives*)

Choose to stand out among the over 22,000 MGMA members. Since there are only about **2,800 Certified Members** and **724 Fellows**, earning the advanced ACMPE credentials truly IS noteworthy.

Now is the time! Changes to the eligibility requirements take place **effective January 2019**, as given below. As we are quickly approaching the New Year, consider making certification a goal. **A year from now you will thank yourself!**

As the Tennessee State ACMPE Forum Rep, please reach out to me at bdaniels@manchesterpain.net, or simply visit the MGMA [website](#) for more information. Contact me today if you need assistance in this pursuit.

Crosswalk of changes/Timeline:



Barbara Daniels, FACMPE
TMGMA ACMPE Forum Representative

SHOWCASE
YOUR
EXPERTISE
BY BECOMING
A CERTIFIED
MEDICAL
PRACTICE
EXECUTIVE
OR FELLOW
IN THE
AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
MEDICAL
PRACTICE
EXECUTIVES

ACMPE CORNER CONTINUED

Essay Exam Practice

ACMPE nominees preparing for your ACMPE Certification exams may receive feedback from essay exam graders on your practice essay responses by submitting them to Nikki Klaus, nklaus@mgma.org.

Exam changes:

The new **Scenario-based exam** will be introduced **September 2017**. The scenario-based exam will consist of 18-25 scenarios, which are real-life situations that you may face as a practice executive. You will be asked to answer five to seven questions in response to each scenario. Examinees will have two hours to complete each part of the exam.

Study Groups:

For **Certification**, there are 8 weekly webinar modules covering the 6 domains in the Body of Knowledge, which are open to members and non-members. See the [webinar series](#) in the MGMA store for more details. There is also a Tennessee MGMA study group in the member community hosted by Deborah Hudson. [Tennessee ACMPE Study Group](#)

The **Fellowship study group** webinar series is designed to help individuals considering Fellowship to learn more about the process and requirements and encourage them to earn their FACMPE. All webinars are now available [on-demand](#).

2017 Exam dates:

Exam Dates	Registration
March 11 – 25, 2017	Jan. 30 – Feb. 10, 2017
June 10 – 24, 2017	April 24 – May 5, 2017
September 9 – 23, 2017	July 24 – August 4, 2017
December 2 – 16, 2017	October 23 – November 3, 2017

Exam sites can be found [online](#).

Registration information is located on mgma.com/exams

Exam preparation resource materials are available in the [MGMA store](#).





THE NEW MGMA 2017 STATE SALARY SURVEY IS OPEN!

Participate by
Feb. 17 for
free access to
the results.



The **MGMA 2017 State Salary Survey** is now open! By participating in this survey, you're contributing to gold-standard benchmark data and helping produce more Tennessee specific benchmarking data.

Use this link <http://orca.mgma.com/statesurvey> to begin completing your 2017 State Salary Survey. You won't have to navigate away from this page and only required questions are included, making participation easier than ever before! **Remember to bookmark this special survey link!**

As a benefit of participating, you'll receive complimentary access to the results through MGMA DataDive. **Feb. 17th is the deadline** to complete the 2017 State Salary Survey, as well as the 2017 Provider Compensation and Production Survey.

Need help getting started? Check out the [State MGMA Survey Participation](#) page to make sure you have everything you need to begin.

For more information on all MGMA surveys, please visit mgma.org/participate.

Need one-on-one help?

MGMA data analysts are available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm MT. Toll-free: 877.275.6462, ext. 1895 or email us at survey@mgma.org

PAST PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Past Presidents Scholarship Fund has been created to assist with the cost of continuing education and professional development in the area of Medical Practice Management. TMGMA awards a \$2,000 scholarship in the Fall to an Active member for advancement in the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Funds must be used for attendance to the MGMA Annual Conference (reimbursable expenses include MGMA member dues, ACMPE testing fee, AC registration, hotel, travel and meals)

TMGMA awards two \$500 scholarships each Fall to Active members of one of our local MGMA chapters. Recipients of these scholarships do not have to be a member of the Tennessee MGMA, but must be active in their local chapter. These awards are designed to defray the expenses of attending a Tennessee MGMA conference (reimbursable expenses include TMGMA member dues, Spring or Fall conference registration, hotel, travel and meals).

Submit your application today by visiting our website at tmgma.com.

TMGMA Legislative News

TMGMA works closely with both the MGMA and TMA Government Affairs staff to provide our members with the latest legislative & regulatory information. TMGMA members are encouraged to participate in grassroots activities, anecdotal surveys, and contacting your elected officials on issues of importance to medical practices. For more information on how you can get involved or questions on any legislative issue, contact your TMGMA Legislative Liaison DeAnna Brown, FACMPE, CPC at dbrown@tnvalleyurology.net.



Happy New Year! 2017 is certainly going to be a year of monumental changes in healthcare. It's a little exciting, it's a little frightening, and it's certainly challenging. We need each other more than ever.

MEMBER SURVEY – EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 21

Your input is vital to the future of healthcare. US Congressman Phil Roe, MD (TN-01) is looking for information regarding “doctor shopping” as it relates to patients covered by VA. Please take a moment and [click this link](#) to answer the following four questions:

Are any of your non-VA physicians able to access VA prescription records for patients who are being referred to care through Choice or another Community Care VA program?

If yes, what method are you using to access prescriptions records for VA patients?

Is this an issue in your facility?

Is access to these records something you need to be able to treat your VA patients?

If you have any experience, knowledge, or feedback that they would like to share, please reply to dbrown@tnvalleyurology.net with your responses and comments so that I may forward them on to the TMA, Congressman Roe, and his staff.

Attestation for the EHR Incentive Programs is Now Open

The EHR Incentive Programs attestation system will be open from **January 3 - February 28, 2017**. Providers must attest by the attestation deadline to avoid a 2018 payment adjustment.

To help providers prepare for the 2016 EHR Incentive Programs attestation period, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released two attestation worksheets for [eligible professionals](#) and [eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals](#).

Providers can log their meaningful use measures for each objective in the worksheet and use it as a reference when attesting for the 2016 Medicare EHR Incentive Program in CMS' portal [Registration and Attestation System](#).

As there have been system issues in the past related to the high volume of users close to the deadline, practice leaders are encouraged to complete the attestation process as soon as possible.

For More Information, CMS encourages providers to visit the [CMS 2016 Program Requirements](#) webpage on the CMS website to access the worksheets and review additional resources for 2016 EHR Incentive Program participation.

2017 DAY ON THE HILL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! **DAY ON THE HILL** is March 7, 2017! In 2016, we had over 300 doctors, practitioners, and administrators. Let's double that number this year. You have a voice, get involved and be heard! Obtain more information and register to attend here: <http://www.tnmed.org/dayonthehill>

New Congress begins, starts process to repeal and replace the ACA

Members of the 115th Session of Congress were sworn in on Tuesday and introduced a [budget resolution](#) that would begin the process to repeal and replace parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The budget resolution, which does not have the force of law, instructs certain congressional committees to develop legislation to repeal parts of the ACA through an intricate budgetary process known as reconciliation. The goal is for both the Senate and House of Representatives to complete action on the budget resolution by Jan. 20 when President-elect Trump is inaugurated. Then, development of the repeal legislation would begin. Under consideration is a plan to defer implementation of the repeal bill to allow congressional leadership and the Trump Administration time to develop a replacement package. However, the outcome of the process and any practical implication for medical group practices will remain unclear until more specificity is brought to the timeline and content of the legislative package.

CMS releases 2017 MIPS measure specifications and other critical information

Late last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) unveiled a number of resources and information critical to participating in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and alternative payment models (APMs) in 2017, including the highly-anticipated 2017 quality measure specifications and performance benchmarks practices will be scored against, a new fact sheet and measure specifications for the MIPS EHR category known as advancing care information (ACI), as well as an updated comprehensive list of APMs.

MGMA advocated for the agency to make this critical information available to practices well in advance of the performance period to allow proper time to familiarize themselves with reporting criteria and plan accordingly and was disappointed to see this information released only two business days before the start of the 2017 performance period. We will continue to call on CMS to make this information available much earlier in future years and to extend reporting flexibility into 2018 to ensure a smooth transition and maximize practices' opportunities to succeed in this new payment system. To read about MGMA's advocacy and to download these and other resources, visit MGMA's [MACRA Resource Center](#).

Study participants will earn 15% of 2017 MIPS score

As an alternative to attesting to completion of improvement activities (IAs) or participating in a MIPS APM, group practices may earn full credit in the new IA category of MIPS by participating in a study hosted by CMS. Study participants will be required to complete three survey questionnaires throughout the course of the study, participate in at least three focus groups, and submit at least three clinician quality performance measures to CMS. The study will focus on the challenges associated with quality performance data collection and submission processes. [Applications](#) to participate in the study are due by Jan. 31. For more information about participating in MIPS, visit MGMA's [MACRA Resource Center](#).

REMINDERS:

Medicare Part A and B premiums and deductibles for 2017

Medicare Part B's monthly premiums for one-third of Medicare beneficiaries will increase about 10% in 2017 to \$134 from \$121.80 in 2016. About 70% of beneficiaries will be "held harmless" from the increase due to a lower than usual Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. For beneficiaries held harmless, the average 2017 premium will be about \$109, up from \$104.90. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries will be \$183 in 2017, compared to \$166 in 2016. Read the CMS [announcement](#).

VOLUNTEER

Join me! Are you interested in serving on the TMGMA Legislative Committee? We are currently in the process of looking for committee members for this year's Legislative Committee. Volunteer by emailing me at