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## January 29, 2021

### Inside This Issue

[2021 Legislative Session](#)

[AOA Research Grants](#)

[Birdies for Charity](#)

[AOMA Annual Convention](#)

[Board of Examiners](#)

[Telemedicine Educational Events](#)

[Vaccines & the Economy](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Slow the Spread Campaign](#)

[Join AOMA](#)

[Vaccine & Allergic Reactions](#)

[AOMA Calendar](#)

### 2021 Legislative Session Underway

The 55th Legislature opened its 2nd Regular Session on Monday, January 11, 2021 with nearly 1200 bills introduced in the first 14 days. The AOMA Legislative Affairs Committee and staff are busy tracking approximately 100 bills, including about a dozen bills of significance to actively support and/or oppose. For more information and member-only access to the [bills AOMA is tracking](#), please visit the [AOMA Advocacy Resource Center](#).

### **Bills of Interest**

#### **HB2454 - telehealth; health care providers; requirements**

Sponsored by Rep. Regina Cobb, this bill modifies the requirements for health and disability insurers to cover telehealth services, and applies these

requirements to policies issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021.

**SB1270 - insurance; prescription drugs; step therapy**

Sen. Nancy Barto's bill on behalf of patient advocacy groups to reform the way in which health insurers handle step therapy on covered drugs.

**SB1247 - opioid prescriptions; naloxone requirements; exception**

This bill sponsored by Sen. Sean Bowie removes the requirement to prescribe naloxone or other opioid antagonist when prescribing a more than 90 MME for a patient who is receiving hospice or end-of-life care.

**SB1088 - controlled substances; schedule designation**

Sen. Tyler Pace's bill modifies the definition of controlled substances to include those adopted by the State Board of Pharmacy.

**HB2392 - ahcccs; graduate medical education; reimbursement**

Rep. Joanne Osborne's bill would require the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System to establish a separate graduate medical education program to reimburse qualifying community health centers that have an approved primary care GME program.

**Bills of Concern**

**SB1271 - associate physicians; licensure; collaborative practice**

A bill by Sen. Nancy Barto to create a new licensed health professional, an Associate Physician, which would be open to medical school grads who don't match into residency programs, and would allow them to practice primary care in medical shortage areas (with physician "collaboration").

**SB1060 - chiropractors; laboratory procedures and HB2311 - laboratory procedures; chiropractors**

Companion bills sponsored by Sen. Nancy Barto and Rep. Jacqueline Parker expanding the scope of practice for a doctor of chiropractic to include clinical diagnostic laboratory procedures that use nasal swabs, oral swabs, and sputum collection to determine the propriety of a regimen of chiropractic care.

**HB2065 - medical freedom; parental rights**

Sponsored solely by Rep. John Fillmore, this bill changes the language from parents having the right to “opt out of immunizations pursuant to section 15-873” to “decide whether to immunize one’s child as prescribed in section 15-872.” It eliminates school tracking of immunizations and the need for parents to provide an exemption, medical or personal.

### **HB2423 - immunizations; exemption; requirements**

This bill is sponsored by Rep. Frank Carroll and a list of others. It addresses all immunizations, not just school immunization requirements and tampers with the FDA vaccine approval process, attempting to replace it with criteria set by the state. It addresses exemptions, clinical trials, placebos, long-term potential to cause cancer and other medical conditions, and other criteria that cannot be met.

### **The Budget**

Arizona has a budget surplus. State revenue is once again much higher than expected and Gov. Ducey is proposing a tax cut. He doesn’t want to sign another “skinny” budget and Republican lawmakers don’t want to give up their spending or tax-cutting priorities for a second year in a row. The Governors' \$12.6 billion proposed budget includes COVID-adjacent programs, but Democrats are calling for more COVID-related funding for expanding unemployment insurance, providing more relief to small businesses, and stopping evictions. Senate President Karen Fann reported she’s working with her members to have a “backbone” budget ready, in case the Legislature needs to abruptly recess again.

Stay tuned for future AOMA Action Alerts and make sure to help advocate for your patients and profession by responding to them.

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## Last Chance! Arizona Osteopathic Charities Needs Your Help and Your 2 Cents - Literally!

The Waste Management Phoenix Open begins next week. Once again, the Phoenix Thunderbirds will donate dollars to Arizona Osteopathic Charities for every birdie made during the tournament.

The Arizona Osteopathic Charities is short of the required \$3,000 that must be raised to qualify for the 10% additional donation from the Phoenix Thunderbirds. Please help and [CLICK HERE](#) to donate. No need to sign in, just choose **DONATE NOW** to make your donation. Please be sure to list **Arizona Osteopathic Charities** in the Organization/Charity Name field. Share the link with your family and friends, too!

How many birdies will the pros make? 1300? 1400? 1500?

***How much will you pledge?***

- **1500 birdies x \$0.02 =  
\$30.00**



- **1500 birdies x \$0.03 =  
\$45.00**
- **1500 birdies x \$0.05 =  
\$75.00**

[Pledge Now](#)

Please help Arizona Osteopathic Charities reach its goal of \$3,000. The deadline to pledge is February 7, 2021. Make your pledge TODAY at [birdiesforcharityaz.com](http://birdiesforcharityaz.com). Thank you for your support.

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### [A Message from the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners](#)

January 31, 2021, is the last day to renew your Arizona DO license without paying a late fee. Anyone who renews on or after February 1, 2021 will have to pay a \$175.00 late fee. If you haven't already done so, please act now and renew your Arizona DO license as soon as possible by the January 31 deadline to avoid the late fee.

All unrenewed licenses will expire on April 30, 2021. Individuals with expired licenses will have to apply as a new physician.

Please direct your questions to the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners at 602-771-2524 or [licensing@azdo.gov](mailto:licensing@azdo.gov). Provide your NAME, PHONE NUMBER and EMAIL in your message.

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[Join the Discussion - Vaccines & the Arizona Economy](#)

You are invited to join Arizona legislators and community leaders for a robust discussion about the impact of vaccines and vaccine development on Arizona's economy.

## How Vaccines Impact Arizona's Economy

Tuesday, February 2, 2011

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Register at <https://www.azbio.org/events/how-vaccines-impact-arizonas-economy>

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### Positive Returns On Your Membership Investment



Know a trusted business you would recommend as an AOMA Business Partner? Contact us at [communications@az-osteo.org](mailto:communications@az-osteo.org) or 602-266-6699.

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## [AOMA Members Participate in COVID PSA Campaign](#)

AOMA was well-represented in the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association's ***Slow the Spread*** public awareness campaign! Thank you to the following AOMA members who participated in the regional videos now appearing on Facebook and Twitter:

Brandon Abbott, DO - Flagstaff  
Michael Aranda, DO - Prescott  
Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO -  
Phoenix  
Tasha Harder, DO - Flagstaff  
Marc Kaplan, DO - Sierra Vista  
Christopher Labban, DO - Mesa  
Emily Leider, DO - Flagstaff  
Michael Lokale, DO - Tucson



Check out the videos and share them with your patients and colleagues! <https://www.azhha.org/slowthespread>



### 100th Anniversary Moment

The first osteopathic physicians in Arizona were Washington Conner, DO and David Conner, DO who established their practice in 1898.

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**[COVID-19 Vaccine &  
Allergic Reactions - Second  
Dose](#)**



It is more common to have an increased immune response (side effects/symptoms) after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccine than the first since the body is responding to foreign material that it has already seen. It can be hard to tease out COVID-19 vaccine side effects from acute SARS-CoV-2 infection since both can produce systemic symptoms such as fever, chills, fatigue, myalgia, and arthralgia.

You may get questions about this from individuals who recently received their COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC has a [Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#) webpage that demonstrates the thought process of considering if a person is just having post-vaccination symptoms or if an infection should be considered.

Highlights include the following:

- About 55–83% of people develop at least one systemic symptom following vaccination.
- Most systemic post-vaccination signs and symptoms are mild to moderate in severity, occur within the first three days of vaccination (the day of vaccination and following two days, with most occurring the day after vaccination), resolve within 1-2 days of onset, and are more frequent and severe following the second dose and among younger persons compared to those who are older (>55 years).
- In contrast, **cough, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell** are **not** consistent with post-vaccination symptoms, and instead may be symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 or another infection.
- If any of these latter symptoms occur after vaccination, SARS-CoV-2 should be considered and evaluated for.
- Also, if systemic symptoms persist longer than is usual after vaccination, another cause should be looked for.

- Ultimately, clinical judgement should be used to determine the likelihood of infection versus post-vaccination symptoms and the indicated clinical approach.

For complete information about this CDC update, please refer to the following sources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)

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## **AOA Research Grants**

Research funding is available to DO and PhD researchers conducting studies that address one of **four** RFAs in three overall areas of foci approved by the AOA Board of Trustees:

- OMM/OMT on the Prevention and Management of Musculoskeletal Injuries (\$100,000 maximum)
- Acute/Chronic Pain Management
- The Impact of the Osteopathic Approach on Chronic Disease and Elderly Care
- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Observational & Explorative Research Studies

Grants are also available for new investigators, residents and medical students. The application window closes on Monday, February 15 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Funded projects will be announced in June. [Learn more](#) about these opportunities [here](#).

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## [AOMA 99th Annual Convention - Virtual Event](#)

The largest annual medical conference in Arizona is just around the corner. The AOMA 99th Annual Convention will be livestreamed on April 7 -10, 2021 and be available for on demand playback.

This year's Convention theme is **100 Years of Healing**. AOMA designates this activity for a maximum of 37 hours of Category AOA 1-A credits. This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 credits™*. Application will be submitted for AAFP Prescribed credits. Full agenda is pending.



**Save \$100!** Early registration is now open at [www.az-osteo.org/2021Convention](http://www.az-osteo.org/2021Convention).

[Register Today!](#)

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## [2021 E/M Guidelines Webinar](#)

The Arizona Telemedicine Program is offering a Webinar on the new Evaluation and Management (E/M) Coding Guidelines.

- Understand the 2021 AMA E/M Guidelines including documentation guidelines and maximizing efficiency
- Learn about the duration of the PHE and its effect on the TH payments by CMS and Arizona

- Review possible scenarios for post-PHE

## Update to the 2021 E/M Guidelines

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

12 pm to 2 pm

[Register](#)

To view the full calendar of events for the Arizona Telemedicine Program, visit [telemedicine.arizona.edu](http://telemedicine.arizona.edu).



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES



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A promotional banner for SoFi. On the left, text reads "Feeling stuck with your current private student loans?" and "Members can access a 0.25% rate discount through SoFi." In the center is an image of a graduation cap on a glass base. On the right is the SoFi logo and a "Learn More" button.

Feeling stuck with your current private student loans?

Members can access a **0.25% rate discount** through SoFi.

**SoFi**

**Learn More**



## **Patients are Looking for YOU! Update Your Profile!**

One of the benefits of AOMA membership is the **Find a Physician** public directory search. Make sure your practice information is up to date by logging in to your member profile on the AOMA website. When you do, prospective patients and potential referring physicians will be able to find you.

## **COVID-19 Tracking Resources**

[www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org)

<https://91-divoc.com>

## **Arizona COVID-19**

### **Vaccination Distribution**

[Arizona Department of Health Services](#)

[List of Arizona County Health](#)

[Departments](#)

