



# MAPA News

Newsletter of the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

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JANUARY 2010



## PA Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars for the next PA Day at the Capitol, February 4th, 2010. Please make arrangements to meet and greet with your fellow Mississippi PAs and state legislators.

We will be serving hot breakfast and taking the opportunity to educate our state representatives on our profession and role in the health care system. There is legislation that is being passed regularly that, although may not impact you directly, is important PAs be written into. The only way we get our voices heard is to make a presence in Jackson.

Please join your MAPA Board of Directors on February 4th at the state capitol building to continue the process of educating those that may impact our profession the most.

Contact Kim Gray at [kgray@smsurgeons.com](mailto:kgray@smsurgeons.com).

## ATTENTION MISSISSIPPI PAs:

Please contact MAPA leadership if you encounter challenges dealing with the state Board of Medical Licensure. After several years of working with the Board and staff, we have found many solutions in addressing unique situations by working through the association leadership and dealing with the Board and its leadership staff.

The most recent example comes with the letters received by many PAs in the state from MSBML, stating that the MBSML is limiting the number of back-up physicians a PA may have. The MAPA BOD had a teleconference with AAPA representatives for guidance concerning this issue, and a meeting with MSBML staff as well. If this affects your practice, MAPA recommends that you have your supervising and/or backup physician(s) write a letter to MSBML to communicate the potential negative impact on their practice and request a waiver to the 3 back-up physician limitation.

### Mail to:

MSBML

Attn: H. Vann Craig, MD

1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Suite 200-B

Jackson, MS 39216

## MAPA DEA Workshop

### Saturday, February 6, 2010

Mississippi Baptist Hospital  
Jackson, Mississippi

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

10 hours of Category I CME\* (required for new and renewal DEA licenses)

**Contact:** Kim Gray • [kgray@smsurgeons.com](mailto:kgray@smsurgeons.com)

**For more information,** visit <http://www.missipas.org/cme.htm> or call 800-844-4902.

\* This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers plan to request 10 hours of AAPA Category I CME credit from the Physician Assistant Review Panel. Total number of approved credits yet to be determined.



## We've Moved!

MAPA invites you to bookmark our *new* Web site at [www.missipas.org](http://www.missipas.org)

### MAPA

950 N. Washington St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1534

Toll Free: (800) 844-4902

Fax: (703) 684-1924

## Reimbursement Workshop a Success!



The Physician Assistant Reimbursement Workshop hosted by MAPA at Ocean Springs Hospital on November 7th, 2009 was a great success.

Michael Powe, Vice President of Health System and Reimbursement for AAPA, national expert on

physician assistant reimbursement and billing, spoke to a diverse group to educate them on Mississippi state laws for practicing PAs; he also discussed the rules and regulations of billing and coding for Medicare, Medicaid, and private payers.

Valuable points included how to correctly bill for “Incident To,” shared visits and consultations. He gave an update on the new changes in Medicare regarding billing of consultations that will take place in January 2010. He discussed coding for first assistants, fraud and abuse issues, compliance and how to track productivity.

The attendees of the workshop included a mix of physician assistants, supervising physicians, office managers, and billing personnel.

## MAPA Updates

Amy Ballard, Northern Region Director at Large, has resigned her position with MAPA effective immediately. She has decided to take some time for family affairs and would not be able to dedicate enough time and effort to her MAPA responsibilities. Thank you for your service to the organization, Amy, we wish you well.

Cindi Kauveyak-Fox has been appointed by MAPA’s BOD as the new Northern Region Director at Large. If you are in the Northern Region, please feel free to contact Cindi at [civikfox13@yahoo.com](mailto:civikfox13@yahoo.com).

## FREE PROGRAM HELPS ELIGIBLE UNINSURED MISSISSIPPIANS SAVE ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

As a result of today’s economy, physician assistants are seeing an increasing number of uninsured patients who are struggling daily to access quality healthcare. Often, because they lack coverage, these individuals may either skip doses or refrain from filling their prescriptions to save money for other immediate needs.

Fortunately, resources are available that can help uninsured individuals save money on their prescriptions so they can take care of what is most important – their health.

### Rx Help for Uninsured Individuals

One free program, Together Rx Access, which is sponsored by many of the nation’s leading pharmaceutical companies, provides eligible individuals and families with immediate and meaningful savings on prescription products right at their neighborhood pharmacies.

Individuals may be eligible for the Together Rx Access® Card if they do not qualify for Medicare, do not have public or private prescription drug coverage, and have a household income of up to \$45,000 for a single person to \$90,000 for a family of four (income eligibility is adjusted for family size).

Most cardholders save 25 to 40 percent\* on brand-name prescription products. More than 300 brand-name prescription products are included in the Program.† Savings are also available on a wide range of generics. Medicines in the Program include those used to treat high cholesterol, diabetes, depression, asthma, and many other common conditions. The Together Rx Access Card is free to get and free to use.

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The Together Rx Access Card is accepted at the majority of pharmacies nationwide and in Puerto Rico. Cardholders simply bring the Card to their neighborhood pharmacist along with their prescription, and the savings are calculated right at the pharmacy counter.

## Quick and Easy Enrollment

Together Rx Access offers potential cardholders three easy ways to enroll in the Program. And, no documentation is required.

- ➔ Visit [TogetherRxAccess.com](http://TogetherRxAccess.com) to instantly enroll online.
- ➔ Call the toll-free phone number: 1-800-250-2839.
- ➔ Complete a short paper application and return it by mail.

All enrollment materials, including the Together Rx Access website, are available in English and Spanish. A Together Rx Access quick start savings card is also available. Potential enrollees simply detach the Card from a brochure and call the toll-free number to find out if they are eligible, enroll and instantly activate their Card. Physician assistants interested in receiving a supply of quick start savings cards, or other enrollment materials, can visit <http://www.togetherrxaccessonline.com/order>.

For more information, visit [TogetherRxAccess.com](http://TogetherRxAccess.com) or call 1-800-250-2839.

\*Each cardholder's savings depend on such factors as the particular drug purchased, amount purchased, and the pharmacy where purchased. Participating companies independently set the level of savings offered and the products included in the Program. Those decisions are subject to change.

†Visit [TogetherRxAccess.com](http://TogetherRxAccess.com) for the most current list of brand-name medicines and products.

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## Why Become a Member of MAPA?



More than 100 PAs practice in the state of Mississippi; of these only 47 are MAPA members. MAPA is always working hard to be a voice for PAs in Mississippi and continues to need your support.

The membership year is July 1 – June 30. Also, if you are considering running for an officer position, it is required that all officers be a fellow member of both MAPA and AAPA. You can join and renew by completing the membership application enclosed or by going on-line at [www.missipas.org](http://www.missipas.org).

**"I chose to join MAPA** because of the overwhelming need to progress the profession in our state. Every day I am faced with patients, doctors, and colleagues that don't know what a PA is nor have even heard of one. I think the best way to get our profession out there and make a difference is by being a part of a larger group working together. Each year MAPA works to find ways for PA's to get involved. Whether it be by doing a sponsorship for PA week, being present at every state board meeting, or arranging meeting time to advise our state legislators; MAPA gives PAs in the state of Mississippi a voice loud enough to make things happen."

**"I joined MAPA** and agreed to serve as a Director at Large so I could play an active role in the future of the PA profession in Mississippi and network with other PAs with similar motivations."

**"I am a member of MAPA** because I believe it helps our profession in MS to be heard. The more collective voices we have, the stronger our message will be. MAPA represents the voice for PAs in Mississippi. I also believe it's not what your organization can do for you but what you can do for your organization. With so few of us (PAs) in Mississippi, MAPA needs our support to thrive. That's why I am not only a member of MAPA, but also why I choose to serve the organization on the Board of Directors."



**Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) Cell Phone:( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) ext \_\_\_\_\_ Fax:( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Supervising Physician: \_\_\_\_\_  
Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_  
PA Program Attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
NCCPA Certification: No Yes → Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_  
AAPA Member: No Yes → Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership Categories:**

**Fellow:** An individual who is a current member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Fellow members shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible to hold office.

**Associate:** Non-PA (e.g. physician, pharmaceutical liaison, etc.) or member of another AAPA constituent chapter.

**Affiliate:** An individual who qualifies for fellow membership but elects not to be an AAPA member. These members have privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA Executive Committee or vote on AAPA matters.

**Student:** An individual currently enrolled in a Physician Assistant Program. These members have privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA Executive Committee or vote on AAPA matters.

**Active Duty Military:** Active military duty members are PAs currently active duty in one of the federal branches of armed forces who also maintain a fellow membership with the AAPA. Active military members shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible to hold office.

**Physician / PA Team:** Physician/PA joint members includes both the supervising physician and PAs who qualify for fellow membership status. The physician member is ineligible to vote or hold office. The PA member shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible to hold office.

**Hardship:** Hardship members are PAs eligible for fellow membership within the Academy but who are unable to pay full membership dues. Hardship members shall be ineligible to vote or hold office. To apply for a hardship membership, contact MAPA at [missipas@aapa.org](mailto:missipas@aapa.org).

**Joining as:** Fellow \$100 Associate \$50 Affiliate \$50 Active Duty Military \$50 Physician / PA Team \$125  
Student \$50

Are you interested in volunteering as an officer or committee chair?

No Yes → Area(s) of interest \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues are paid annually. The membership year runs from July 1 – June 30.

**Join Online at [www.missipas.org](http://www.missipas.org) or make check or money order payable to MAPA and mail with application to:**

Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants  
950 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 2231-1552

Approximately 100% of your dues are not deductible as an ordinary business expense as a result of lobbying activities which are regulated by lobbying laws. Questions about the valid tax deductibility should be discussed with your tax advisor.