

Bulletin

Editor: John W. Snead, M.D.

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LEE COUNTY
MEDICAL
SOCIETY_{NC}

Physicians Caring for our Community

Bulletin

13370 Plantation Road, Ste. 1
Fort Myers FL 33912

The Lee County Medical Society Bulletin is published monthly with the June and August editions omitted.

EDITORS

John W. Snead, M.D. & Ellen Sayet, M.D.

PRESIDENT

Daniel de la Torre M.D.

PRESIDENT ELECT

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Trevor Elmquist, D.O.

Jaime Hall, M.D.

Ryan Lundquist, M.D.

Gamini Soori, M.D.

MANAGING EDITOR

Julie Ramirez, 239-936-1645

E-Mail: jramirez@lcmsfl.org

BULLETIN STAFF

Valerie Yackulich, Executive Assistant

GRAPHICS

Cloudscape-graphix % Fraller Enterprises

PRINTER

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Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Medical Society is to advocate for physicians and their relationships with patients; promote public health and uphold the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

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Picture taken by
Dr Dan de la Torre's dive buddy,
Rob Nicastro off of Little Cayman
July 2, 2019 @ 1:56:41 PM, about
40 ft down. In the center is a
Red-orange branching sponge,
Ptilocaulis sp. There is also some
Three finger leaf alga, *Halimeda
incrassata*. Also the white balled
is a hydroid either a Christmas
tree or Algae Hydroid. Rob used
an Olympus TG-4 Digital Camera
with 2 Sola photo lights. ISO 100,
4.5mm, f/2.8.



EVENTS RSVP ONLINE AT WWW.LCMSFL.ORG



Women Physician's
Martini & Manicure
Wednesday, December 4th

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Hilton
Garden Inn
Fort Myers

Hilton Garden Inn Airport

16410 Corporate Commerce Way, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Practice Administrator Luncheon

Wednesday, December 11th, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lexington Country Club

13851 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33912

Jingle **AND** *Mingle* - **HOLIDAY
PARTY-**

december 12th, 2019 - 7pm-10pm

gulf harbor yacht country club house

14500 vista river drive, fort myers, fl 33908
rsvp by december 5th, 239.936.1645 or www.lcmsfl.org

\$65 per person | (rsvp's are nonrefundable)

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MEMBERSHIP SECTION

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Elmquist Eye Group's Dr. Sarah Eccles-Brown has earned certification to perform the Kahook Dual Blade procedure, a minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of glaucoma. A board-certified ophthalmologist at Elmquist Eye Group, Eccles-Brown is the practice's lead surgeon responsible for premium cataract surgery, eyelid surgery and in-office procedures, and is also certified to perform the iStent Inject procedure for glaucoma patients. Learn more: <https://www.elmquist.com/news.html>

LCMS CLASSIFIEDS

Out of medical practice due to retirement or handicap? But miss the interaction that comes with seeing patients and your ability to provide relief and healing? We have positions open for physicians in our Naples and Ft. Myers offices. Please call Dr. Brueck at (239) 202-0606.

We are requesting that if you have information that you would like to share regarding yourself or your practice, to please e-mail valerie@lcmsfl.org. You will be featured in our upcoming Membership Spotlight section.

Membership News - New Members

Abd-El-Rahman M. Abd-El-Barr, MD

Pediatric Urology
Lee Physician Group
16230 Summerlin Rd., Ste 215
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6050

**Michael Antiporda, MD**

General Surgery
GI Surgical Specialists
14090 Metropolis Ave., #102
Fort Myers, FL 33912
Tel: 239-313-7522 Fax: 239-244-9957
Board Certified: Surgery

**Andre D. Anderson, MD**

Family Medicine
Lee Health Coconut Point
23450 Via Coconut Point, Estero, FL 33928
Tel: 239-468-1000 Fax: 239-343-4056
Board Certified: Family Medicine,
Primary Care and Sports Medicine

**Gabriela Aviles, MD**

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392

**Elie Balesh, MD**

Diagnostic Radiology
Radiology Regional Center, P.A.
3660 Broadway
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-936-2316 Fax: 239-425-4798
Board Certified in Radiology

**Dustin Begosh-Mayne, MD**

Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group
16261 Bass Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-2052 Fax: 239-343-5248

**Drew Bienvenu, MD**

Emergency Medicine
Lee Memorial Hospital
2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-937-8118 Fax: 239-437-8119
Board Certified: Emergency Medicine

**Brandon Bentley, MD**

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392

**Shauna Berry, DO**

Pediatric Ophthalmology
Golisano's Children's Hospital
9800 HealthPark Dr., Ste 110
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6050 Fax: 239-343-6136
Board Certified: Ophthalmology

**Sheldon Brownstein, MD**

Cardiology
Lee Physician Group
16261 Bass Rd., #300
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6410 Fax: 239-343-4014



Cont'd on next page



Membership News - New Members



Cont'd from previous page

Raymond Carrelle, MD

Family Medicine
Private Physicians of Southwest Florida
24810 Burn Pine Dr.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
Tel: 239-992-4444 Fax: 239-405-8048
Board Certified: Family Medicine



Silva Caswell, DO

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392



Ashley Chatigny, DO

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Lee Physician Group – Behavior Health
12550 New Brittany Blvd., Ste 100
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-343-9194



Kristen Cola, DO

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Pediatric Orthopedic Southwest FL
15880 Summerlin Rd., #300 – PMB #322
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-432-5100 Fax: 239-432-5135



William Cutting, MD

Invasive Cardiology
LPH Med Plaza One Cardiology
9800 S. HealthPark Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6350 Fax: 239-343-6395
Board Certified: Internal Medicine – Cardiology



Jeremy A. Dzen, DO

Internal Medicine
LPG Family Internal Medicine
23450 Via Coconut Point
Estero, FL 34135
Tel: 603-320-9450



Johan Escribano, MD

Vascular Surgery
Gulfcoast Vascular Surgery
8010 Summerlin Lakes Dr., #100
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-939-1767 Fax: 239-939-5859



Eric B. Feinberg, MD

OB/GYN
Lee Physician Group
15901 Bass Road, Ste 100
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-481-4111 Fax: 239-343-9925
Board Certified: OB/GYN



Doron Finn, MD

General Surgery
Lehigh Medical Group
1530 Lee Blvd., Ste 1100
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
Tel: 239-368-0241 Fax: 239-368-1224
Board Certified: Surgery



Christopher Galletti, MD

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392



Damian C. Hanekom, MD

Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group
2441 Surfside Blvd., Ste 200
Fort Myers, FL 33914
Tel: 239-481-4111 Fax: 239-541-7501
Board Certified: Family Medicine



Amy Harlow, MD

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Pediatric Orthopedic Southwest FL
15880 Summerlin Rd., #300 – PMB #322
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-432-5100 Fax: 239-432-5135



Michael Horowitz, MD

Neurosurgery
Lee Neurosurgery
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 819
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3800 Fax: 239-343-3993
Board Certified: Neurosurgery



DeLayna Horsford, MD

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392



Dennis L. Incorvati, DO

Cardiology
Lee Health Group
13340 Metro Pkwy., Ste. 200
Fort Myers, FL 33966
Tel: 239-343-0550 Fax: 239-343-0559
Board Certified: Cardiology



Hannah James, MD

Internal Medicine
Lee Physician Group
1682 NE Pine Island Rd.
Cape Coral, FL 33909
Tel: 239-481-4111 Fax: 239-424-1640
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Cont'd on next page

Membership News - New Members

Cont'd from previous page

George Kopidakis, MD

General Surgery
Lehigh Medical Group
1530 Lee Blvd., Ste 1100
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
Tel: 239-368-0241 Fax: 239-368-1224
Board Certified: Surgery

Sergey Kozyr, MD

Trauma Surgery
LPG Trauma Surgery
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 720
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3292 Fax: 239-343-2968
Board Certified: Surgery & Critical Care

Eve Maclean, DO

Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group
2780 Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-2052 Fax: 239-343-5348
Board Certified: Internal Medicine

Salomon Levy Miranda, MD

General Surgery
LPG Riverwalk
8380 Riverwalk Park Blvd., #100
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Tel: 239-343-9960 Fax: 239-343-9977
Board Certified: General Surgery

Claude P. Lieber, MD

General Surgery – Retired
Board Certified: Surgery

Adina M. Logan, MD

Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group
9981 S. HealthPark Dr., Ste 2W
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-2052 Fax: 239-343-3164
Board Certified: Internal Medicine

Solange Marte, MD

Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 720
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-481-4111 Fax: 239-343-5248

Juliana Odetunde, MD

Family Medicine
Lee Convenient Health – Lehigh
5705 Lee Blvd., Ste #1
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
Tel: 239-343-1800 Fax: 239-343-4041
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Gustavo Prada, MD

Family Medicine
Lee Health Convenient Care
4771 S. Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-343-9800 Fax: 239-343-9848
Board Certified: Family Medicine

Moises Jesus Perez, DO

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392

Eric J. Raab, DO

Psychiatry
Lee Health – Behavioral Health Center
12550 New Brittany Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-343-9180 Fax: 239-343-9188

Farhan Rashid, MD

Pediatrics
LPG Pediatrics
4751 S. Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-343-9888 Fax: 239-343-9878

Jordan Reid, MD

Family Medicine
FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392

Daniel Ruggles, DO

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Pediatric Orthopedics of SWFL
15880 Summerlin Rd., #300 – PMB #322
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-432-5100 Fax: 239-432-5135
Board Certified: Orthopedic Surgery

Augustine Salami, MD

Gastroenterology
Lee Physician Group
16410 HealthPark Commons Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6202 Fax: 239-437-8537
Board Certified: Internal Medicine & Gastroenterology

Matthew Sanders, MD

Vascular Surgery
Gulfcoast Vascular Surgery
8010 Summerlin Lakes Dr., #100
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-939-1767 Fax: 239-939-5859



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Membership News - New Members

Nelson M. Smith, MD

Internal Medicine
Lee Physician Group
1108 NW 43rd, Cape Coral, FL 33993
Tel: 239-424-1600 Fax: 239-434-1640
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Erin Ward, MD

OB/GYN
LPG OB/GYN
15901 Bass Road, Ste 100, Ft. Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-5944 Fax: 239-343-9975
Board Certified: OB/GYN



Patricia Subnaik, DO

Pediatric Gastroenterology
Lee Physician Group
15901 Bass Rd., Ste 102
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-9890 Fax: 239-343-9898



Lori Williams, MD

Internal Medicine
Lee Health – Coconut Point
23450 Via Coconut Point, Estero, FL 33928
Tel: 239-468-1000 Fax: 239-343-4056
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Tiffany Smith-Sutton, MD

FSU/Family Medicine Residency Program @ LH
Family Medicine
2780 Cleveland Ave., Ste 709
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-343-3831 Fax: 239-343-2392



Matthew Young, DO

Family Medicine
Physicians' Primary Care of SWFL
7381 College Parkway, Ste. #110
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Board Certified: Family Medicine



Syeda S. Taranum Basith, MD

Pediatric Ophthalmology
Golisano's Children's Hospital
9800 HealthPark Dr., Ste 110
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Tel: 239-343-6050 Fax: 239-343-6136



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From left: Nina Burt, O.D.; Kate Wagner, O.D.;
E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O.; Sarah Eccles-Brown, M.D.



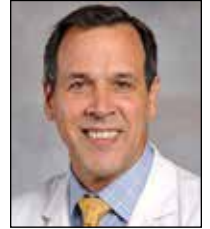
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DANIEL DE LA TORRE M.D.

As I enter the final days of my term as president, it's natural to look back to see what I have accomplished. Have I launched any bold new initiatives to advance the medical society? Have I done anything to improve our system of patient care? Have my actions advanced a more vibrant physician community? If I'm brutally honest with myself, I cannot take credit for any of those. However, in looking back at my involvement with the Lee County Medical Society, the perspective is more about my involvement as a whole rather than just a "term". A saying comes to mind: "the raindrop does not take credit for the flood". The reality is that an organization like the medical society is not defined so much by its leadership as by its membership. Most physicians quickly come to understand that medicine is a team sport. What does not come so easily is that medicine is not a spectator sport.

If I start from that perspective, the answers are much more heartening. Have I been an active part in advancing the medical society? Have I collaborated with my colleagues to improve our system of patient care? Have OUR actions advanced a more vibrant physician community? I can proudly say yes to all the above. In the past year, we have increased usage of the physician wellness program - 30 members or almost 3% of membership have gotten counseling and help with coping techniques for family issues, stress management and emotional support. The annual medical service awards

not only recognized the stars in our medical community but contributed towards funding the wellness program and the valuable services provided by the WeCare program. Our members provided strong representation to advance the concerns of our community at the annual FMA conference. And in terms of participation, our community has never been stronger. Increased attendance and membership at networking events has boosted comradery, adding to our collective voice as a physician community. With almost 800 members, we are one of the largest medical societies in Florida today. The end of my term as president will not mark the end of my participation. I'm quite proud to be a raindrop.





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5 things doctors need to know about 2020 Medicare fee schedule

The 2020 Medicare physician payment schedule contains news about coding revisions for outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) services that promise to greatly reduce administrative burdens for physicians in 2021. But the 2,475-page document also contains information on a multitude of tweaks to the Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) and a plethora of other details affecting how physicians will be paid by Medicare starting Jan. 1.

The AMA's experts have prepared a summary of the 2020 changes to QPP and Medicare physician payment. Here are five things physicians need to know.

A heavier lift will be required to avoid a MIPS penalty. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) raised the minimum score needed to avoid a penalty for physicians participating in the QPP's Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) to 45 points from 30. The maximum penalty, which would affect 2022 payment, will be raised to 9% from 7%. In addition, CMS set the minimum score for 2021 at 60.

Raising the performance threshold is expected to lead to corresponding growth in the cost of MIPS compliance, but statistics also show that more clinicians are scoring at the high end of the scale than at the low end. For calendar year 2018, which will determine payment levels for 2020, CMS said the average score was 86.9 and 99.6 was the median. This far exceeded CMS projections of 80.3 and 90.9.

MIPS high-performer threshold goes up. Clinicians deemed "high performers" are eligible to split an additional \$500 million in available bonus money. CMS proposed setting the 2020 high-performer threshold at 80 points but raised it in the final rule to 85.

"We believe it is important to incentivize exceptional performance in MIPS," the final rule states. "This adjustment would raise the bar on exceptional performance and provide an appropriate financial incentive for high performers."

CMS estimates 92.5% of the 880,000 MIPS-eligible clinicians will avoid a penalty or earn an incentive payment, with 45% eligible for the exceptional performance bonus.

No change to MIPS cost and quality weights. CMS had proposed lowering the weight of quality measures in MIPS scoring from 45% to 40% while raising the weight of cost measures from 15% to 20%. The final rule states that those weights will remain the same.

In the final rule, CMS said it agreed with the AMA concern about the lack of detailed, timely and actionable feedback on cost measures.

"We are committed to improving the feedback experience, including aiming to provide more granular and real-time data, for clinicians to better understand how they can improve their performance on these measures and in turn reduce the cost of care for Medicare beneficiaries," the rule states. "Once clinicians better understand and are more accustomed to reviewing the performance feedback reports on these episode-based and global cost measures, we would then expect to increase the cost performance category weight."

The AMA also remains concerned about Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary and Total Per Capita Cost measures as they hold physicians responsible for costs that they have little control over. CMS said this approach "helps to align incentives across care settings through the patient care continuum, which encourages care coordination."

Bonus points for are still available for small practices and for those serving "complex patients," defined as those with high medical risk or with dual Medicare-Medicaid eligibility.

Framework to cut MIPS burdens. CMS is moving ahead with MIPS Value Pathways, which—starting in 2021—will create a framework to reduce the complexity and administrative burdens associated with MIPS.

CMS is looking to eliminate the reality that the four MIPS reporting categories seem like four different programs and replace it with a pathway that:

Is more aligned with a physician's specialty.

Includes fewer reporting measures.

Facilitates movement toward advanced alternative payment models (APMs).

The AMA is committed to working with CMS and specialty societies to shape the pathways with the goal of making MIPS less complex and burdensome and more clinically relevant.

APM 2022 payments estimated, 2019 payments paid. CMS estimates that between 210,000 and 270,000 clinicians will be eligible Qualifying APM Participants in 2020 and exempt from MIPS reporting requirements. It also estimates that APM incentive payments will total between \$535 million and \$685 million.

Five percent APM incentive payments earned in 2017 have only recently been paid. The AMA joined eight other organizations in a September letter to CMS protesting the delay in payment.

*Five percent
APM
incentive
payments
earned in
2017 have
only recently
been paid.*





ELMQUIST EYE GROUP HOSTS LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY'S NOVEMBER NETWORKING RECEPTION

The Elmquist Eye Group recently hosted the November networking reception for the Lee County Medical Society, welcoming more than 40 physician members on Nov. 8 to Elmquist Eye Group's newly relocated office in Fort Myers. An organization dedicated to the health of the community, the Lee County Medical Society facilitates social gatherings each month dedicated to uniting the physicians of Lee County. The November reception featured an evening of lively conversation, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails for the physician members and guests in attendance.

Follow picture numbers:

Photo 1: Dr. Trevor Elmquist, Dr. Annette St. Pierre-MacKoul

Photo 2: Dr. Kate Wagner, Gwen Burdzy

Photo 3: Dr. Sarah Eccles-Brown, Joleen Darragh, Carol Elmquist, Shannon Green

Photo 4: Dr. Arie Dosoretz, Dr. Elizabeth Cosmai, Dr. Jaime Hall

Photo 5: Diana Samcam, Dr. Ivan Samcam

Photo 6: Julie Ramirez, Dr. Jon Burdzy

Photo 7: Dr. Shauna Berry, Anthony Dagati, Dr. Chauchau Pham

Photo 8: Dr. Saurabh Patel, Dr. Michael Pham

Photo 9: Dennis Hutchison, Dr. Ellen Sayet

Photo 10: Dr. Juan Fernandez de Castro, Alexandra Fernandez de Castro, Julie Ramirez

Photo 11: Dr. Stuart Bobman, Dr. Sarah Eccles-Brown

Photo 12: Carol Elmquist, Dr. Ryan Lundquist, Letty Lundquist



1



7



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12





Are You Ready for 2020 License Renewal M.D.'s & D.O.'s ?

Medical Doctor – Unrestricted - <https://flboardofmedicine.gov/renewals/medical-doctor-unrestricted/>

Licensed medical doctors are renewed by the department in two groups:

Group 1 – current license will expire at midnight, Eastern Time, January 31 of each even year.

Group 2 – current license will expire at midnight, Eastern Time, January 31 of each odd year.

The department will renew your license upon receipt of:

1. Completed Renewal application
2. Evidence that you have practiced medicine or have been on the active teaching faculty of an accredited medical school for at least two years of the immediately preceding four years*
3. Verification of your current status relating to prescribing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic nonmalignant pain
4. Required fees (renewal and background screen fees).
5. Your current primary place of practice address
6. Login to verify your practitioner profile
7. Complete the financial responsibility form
8. Confirmation of required continuing education hours reported into the continuing education tracking system, CE Broker.
9. Login to complete Physician Workforce Survey

* If you have not actively practiced medicine for at least two years of the immediately preceding four years, the board shall require you to successfully complete a board-approved clinical competency examination prior to renewal of your license. The board has approved the Special Purpose Examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States (SPEX) as the board-approved clinical competency examination that must be completed prior to renewal of the license. For the purpose of this section, "actively practiced medicine" means the practice of medicine by physicians, including those employed by any governmental entity in community or public health, as defined in Chapter 458, Florida Statutes, including physicians practicing administrative medicine.

Any person holding an active license to practice medicine in the state may convert that license to a limited license for the purpose of providing volunteer, uncompensated care for low-income Floridians. The applicant must submit a statement from the employing agency or institution stating that he or she will not receive compensation for any service involving the practice of medicine. The application and all licensure fees, including neurological injury compensation assessments, shall be waived. To ensure you receive notification from the department regarding the renewal, you must have on file with the department your current mailing address. Failure to renew an active or inactive license by the expiration date will result in the

license being placed in delinquent status. Failure by a delinquent licensee to become active or inactive before the expiration of the current licensure cycle renders the license null and void without any further action by the board or the department.

Licensees requesting to reactivate their license from inactive or retired status are required to pay additional fees and comply with specific continuing education requirements. Please contact the board office at info@flboardofmedicine.gov to request your reactivation requirements.

A licensee who remains on inactive status for more than two consecutive biennial licensure cycles and who wishes to reactivate the license may be required to demonstrate the competency to resume active practice by sitting for a special purpose examination or by completing other reactivation requirements.

Dispensing Registration

Military Exemption

Volunteer Health Services Exemption

Member of the Florida Legislature Exemption

Health Care Price Transparency Exemption

FLORIDA Board of Osteopathic Medicine -

<https://floridasosteopathicmedicine.gov/>

Current licenses expire at midnight, Eastern Time, on March 31, 2020.

To ensure you receive your renewal notification from the department, your current mailing address must be on file. Failure to renew an active or inactive license by the expiration date will result in the license being placed in delinquent status. Failure by a delinquent licensee to renew before the expiration of the current licensure cycle renders the license null and void without any further action by the board or the department.

A licensee who remains on inactive status for more than two consecutive biennial licensure cycles and who wishes to reactivate the license may be required to demonstrate the competency to resume active practice by sitting for a special purpose examination or by completing other reactivation requirements.

Licensees requesting to reactivate their license from inactive or retired status are required to pay additional fees and comply with specific continuing education requirements. Please contact the board office at info@floridasosteopathicmedicine.gov to request your reactivation requirements.

If you are reactivating your license, please refer to the Laws & Rules governing your practice for additional requirements.

The department will renew your license upon receipt of:

- Completed renewal application
- Required fees
- Updated Practitioner Profile
- Completed Physician Workforce Survey
- Completed Financial Responsibility Form

Military Exemption

Volunteer Health Services Exemption

Health Care Price Transparency Exemption

Physician Wellness Program

Take Care of Your Patients by Taking Care of Yourself



LEE COUNTY
MEDICAL
SOCIETY
INC.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PATIENTS BY TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

The Physician Wellness Program (PWP) provides a safe harbor for physicians to address normal life difficulties in a confidential and professional environment.

WHY WAS THIS PROGRAM CREATED?

A physician's life can be difficult. Problems with the current health care delivery system, maintaining a healthy work/life/family balance, and dealing with the normal stresses of everyday life do take their toll on physicians.

Often our patients turn to us for counseling and guidance, but who can we turn to when we need to talk through an issue or get some coaching for how to handle the stresses in our lives? Too often the answer is "no one," and that is regrettable because it is important that we be as healthy as possible in our role as health care providers.

It is important that we function at our best in all areas of our life. By addressing areas of difficulty, we can decrease our stress levels and increase our level of resilience and effectiveness.

Some examples of those difficulties include:

- Family issues
- Relationship problems
- Work-related difficulties
- Depression & anxiety
 - Burnout
- Difficulty managing stress
 - Mood swings
- Suicidal thoughts

This program is
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to the Lee County
Medical Society
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www.lcmsfl.org

HOW PWP WORKS

We have focused our program with two independent psychology groups. These groups provide counseling to active physician members of the Lee County Medical Society (LCMS), up to eight visits per calendar year. Non-urgent sessions can be scheduled during regular business hours.

Our providers maintain a confidential file for each physician, but no insurance will be billed and LCMS will not be given any information about those who utilize the program. As such, this program is completely confidential. LCMS will pay a monthly bill based on the number of sessions provided. LCMS membership will be verified with the physician finder on the LCMS website.

TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

- 1) View our vetted Psychologist selections on our website at www.lcmsfl.org.
- 2) Then call and identify yourself as a member of Lee County Medical Society and that you wish to utilize this benefit.

PWP Benefits

This program is a LCMS membership benefit.

- 8 free sessions each calendar year
- Complete confidentiality
- Convenient locations in Fort Myers and Naples
- 24 / 7 availability

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Serving those who provide care.

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