



## Honoring Dr. Jefferson Underwood



Long-time Montgomery physician and Past President of the Medical Association, Jefferson Underwood III, M.D., was recently honored with two distinct awards.

The Alabama Chapter American College of Physicians recognized Jefferson Underwood III, MD, FACP, as the 2020 Laureate Award recipient and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama presented Dr. Underwood with the 2020 Samuel Buford Word Award. These presentations are typically made in person at the annual meetings, but due to the cancellation

of this year's events because of COVID-19, Dr. Underwood was honored in his home with a small group of family and colleagues present.

[See the Full Story on NewsCenter](#)



## BCBS Announces Assistance for Physicians

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, the Medical Association has worked with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama to figure out ways to best help physician practices. The Medical Association has helped obtain flexibility for prior authorizations, amend cost-sharing during the emergency and expand telehealth coverage. We applaud Blue Cross Blue Shield for adopting these policy changes.

In an effort to provide financial relief for physicians, the Medical Association has been advocating on behalf of our members. In part, as a result of these conversations, **BCBS sent out the following announcement to Primary Care Select physicians:**

"BLUE CROSS IS READY TO SUPPORT YOU

These are unprecedented times for all of us. We appreciate the services you are providing to your patients – our members – during this challenging COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Because of your participation in one of our Select Programs (Primary Care, OB-GYN, Pediatrics and Endocrinologists) that seek to improve care quality for our members, we will soon offer a payment advance to you to help overcome the financial disruption resulting from this pandemic. Eligible providers must meet specific criteria to receive a payment, and they will need to pay back the amount by a set future date.

We will be reaching out to you with details that explain how you can take advantage of this opportunity through a process that will soon be available on ProviderAccess. We value our partnership with you and want to support you during this extraordinary time."

The Medical Association has also been in discussions with Blue Cross regarding the economic impact COVID-19 has had on specialists. During those discussions, Blue Cross has stated their commitment to work with specialists. Consequently, as the following announcement from Blue Cross states, we encourage specialty physicians to contact Blue Cross to discuss your needs.

**The following notice has been sent by Blue Cross to Specialty physicians:**

"Blue Cross Assisting Providers During COVID-19 Crisis

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama is monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our members as well as the clinicians on whom we rely to provide quality care.

We realize that practices have experienced significant impacts during these uncertain times. We hope that our actions to expand telemedicine opportunities, add incentive opportunities and implement many other changes to ease the delivery of healthcare have made a difference in bridging the gap for your practice.

We will continue to monitor the ongoing impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and work to help providers and patients. As the effects of the COVID-19 crisis linger, please contact us for any specific needs of your practice."

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## **Alabama Data on Stay-At-Home Order**



 **MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA  
**PROTECTING PATIENTS. PROMOTING PHYSICIANS.**

State-level stay-at-home orders were monitored to determine their effect on the rate of confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses. Confirmed cases were tracked before and after state-level stay-at-home orders were put in place. Linear regression techniques were used to determine slopes for log case count data, and meta analyses were conducted to combine data across states. The results were remarkably consistent across states and support the usefulness of stay-at-home orders in reducing COVID-19 infection rates.

**[See the Full Abstract from the AJIC](#)**



# COVID-19 QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS & EARN CME.



As providers, physicians and members of the health care team want to do whatever they can to ensure the health and well-being of their patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the practice of medicine is facing challenges in delivering the best care amid government mandates and ever-changing public perceptions of the situation. At the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, we want to help by offering online COVID-19 CME courses (free for members).

Courses include:

- **PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN THE COVID-19 ERA**
- **PPE FOR PHYSICIANS: NEW, USED AND REFRESHED**
- **AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE DOCTOR'S SYMPTOMS OF COVID AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC**

#### Credits

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this enduring material for a maximum of .25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama through the joint providership of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**[HTTPS://WWW.ALAMEDICAL.ORG/COVID19](https://www.alamedical.org/covid19)**



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