



September 17 is Physician Suicide Awareness Day

PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY | SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

64%

of physicians were afraid of professional repercussions if they sought help for burnout or suicidal thoughts.

Alabama Professionals Health Program (APHP) is a **confidential** resource for physicians (MD/DO), PA's and medical students who need support dealing with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs.

Contact the Alabama Professionals Health Program for assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

(334) 954-2596 | rhunt@alamedical.org



Physicians have the highest suicide rate of any profession.

We know firsthand how difficult—and in some cases traumatic—this year has been for physicians in Alabama.

In recognition of National Physician Suicide Awareness Day on September 17th, we're joining the Alabama Professionals Health Program in encouraging physicians, along with their colleagues and loved ones, to check in on one another's well-being.

Alabama Professionals Health Program (APHP) is a confidential resource for physicians (MD/DO), PA's and medical students who need support dealing with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs. APHP is focused on making sure our lines of communication are always open to you should any issue arise.

"Here at APHP, we take your mental health and well-being very seriously. We provide a safe environment where professionals can talk to other professionals about the stress and demands of modern medical practice," says [Director Rob Hunt](#). "Due to the increased stress physicians have been under this year, the APHP can now be reached 24/7 at 334-954-2596 for confidential and/or anonymous assistance."

[Click here for more information on APHP](#)

CMS issues state guidance on advancing value in Medicaid



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services today released guidance for states on opportunities to advance value-based care in Medicaid, which reviews available federal authorities and "lessons learned" from early state and federal experiences.

"Our health care providers need Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance payers to work in tandem with one another, and I am calling on our state partners to use this guidance to develop a plan to improve quality for their Medicaid beneficiaries by advancing value-based care in their own programs," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma.

[See the guidance from CMS](#)

Ivey issues State of Emergency for

Alabama as Sally becomes a hurricane



Governor Kay Ivey on Monday morning issued a [State of Emergency](#) ahead of potential severe weather affecting Alabama this week.

"Bad weather is nothing to take lightly," Ivey stated. "Earlier today, I issued a State of Emergency because those on the Gulf Coast know a flood and heavy rains can be just as deadly as tropical winds. We pray that Sally doesn't do any harm, but we must be prepared just in case. As your governor, you have my assurance that every resource will be available if we need it. Be safe, Alabama."

[Read the story from Yellowhammer News](#)

Preventive health care has declined during pandemic



The New York Times (9/11, Kliff) reported, "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, Americans vastly scaled back their preventive health care, and there is little sign that this deferred care will be made up." In April, "vaccinations dropped by nearly 60 percent...and almost no one was getting a colonoscopy, according to new data from the nonprofit Health Care Cost Institute." The data "shows a consistent pattern, whether it was prostate screenings or contraceptives: Preventive care declined drastically this spring and, as of late June, had not yet recovered to normal levels."

[Read the article from the New York Times](#)

Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo is a 2020 Woman of Impact



The pursuit of what she terms "lofty goals" has driven Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo throughout her illustrious career in medicine and research.

Marrazzo, a professor of medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at UAB, is a leading researcher in HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

She is world-renown for her research and education on the effects of infectious diseases on women's health, an area of focus fundamental to those lofty goals.

"It is about thinking about the things that matter to women and their families, and how we can really help them have fuller and more determined lives," Marrazzo explained in a recent interview with Yellowhammer News. "That's how I got into the whole world of what I do now, and the research that I've done."

[Read more from Yellowhammer News](#)



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COVID-19

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