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 LIABILITY PROTECTION Helped enact executive orders to protect you from COVID-19 lawsuits	 PPE SOURCE Provided the opportunity to purchase PPE when supplies were scarce	 ADVOCATE FOR TELEHEALTH Worked to institute expanded telehealth policies	 COVID-19 UPDATES Communicated urgent information via daily email updates to all physicians
 ADVOCACY Influential voice and representation on the State and Federal level	 EDUCATION Earn accredited CME hours on the topics that matter most to you	 INSURANCE Save thousands on out-of-pocket expenses with our health insurance plans	 APHP Confidential support to physicians dealing with substance abuse and mental illness

If you are not a member, please join us today to continue to receive our weekly COVID-19 updates and other membership benefits. After today, our updates will only be sent to member physicians.

What have we done during the pandemic for Alabama physicians, you ask? Click the button below to see what we can offer you!

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Imminent Cybercrime Threat

to US Health Care Providers



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and two federal agencies are warning of an "imminent cybercrime threat" to US hospitals and health care providers, noting that several hospitals across the country have already been hit. Hospitals, physician practices, and public health organizations should take "timely and reasonable precautions to protect their networks from these threats." Malware targeting techniques often lead to "ransomware attacks, data theft, and the disruption of healthcare services." The agencies recommend several mitigation steps and best practices for health care entities to take to reduce their risk, including the following:

- Patch operating systems, software, and firmware as soon as manufacturers release updates.
- Regularly change passwords to network systems and accounts and avoid reusing passwords for different accounts.
- Use multi-factor authentication where possible.
- Disallow use of personal email accounts
- Disable unused remote access/Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) ports and monitor remote access/RDP logs.
- Identify critical assets; create backups of these systems and house the backups offline from the network.
- Set antivirus and anti-malware solutions to automatically update; conduct regular scans.

The AMA has created two resources to help physicians and hospitals guard against cyber threats. Those resources and additional cybersecurity information can be found at the AMA's cybersecurity webpage.

[Visit the AMA Cybersecurity Page](#)

Base Anesthesia Payment Rate to Increase November 1st



The Medical Association commends Commissioner Stephanie Azar and the Medicaid agency for increasing the base anesthesia payment rate per allowed unit of service from \$12.78 to \$16.06.

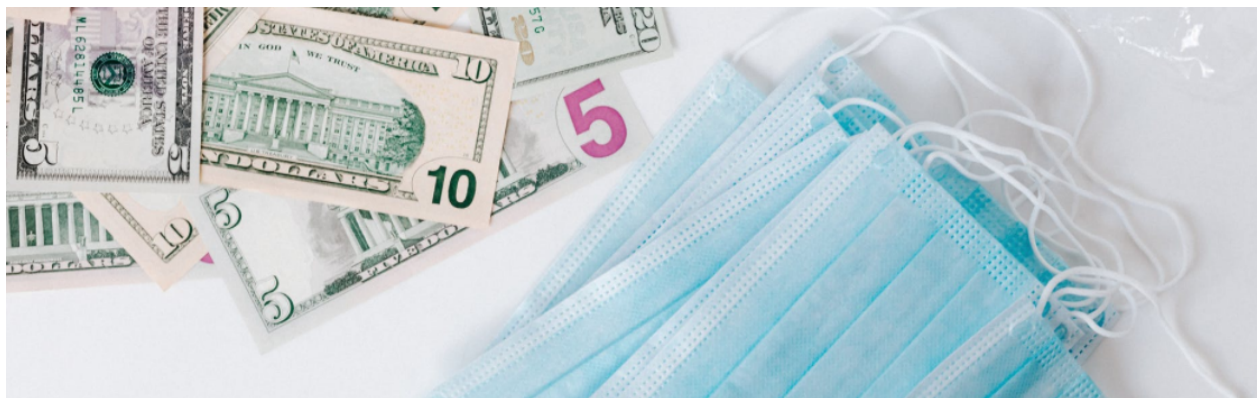
The increase will be effective for dates of service on or after November 1, 2020. The Current rates for CPT codes 01936 and 01996 are not affected by this change.

When billing for anesthesia services, providers shall follow the guidelines set forth in the current Relative Value Guide published by the American Society of Anesthesiologists for basic value and time units. For information about anesthesiology services, please refer to the Provider Billing Manual, Chapter 38 (Anesthesiology).

"The Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists (ASSA) is pleased that our work with the Alabama Medicaid Agency has created a continued pathway for patient access to safe care and quality anesthesia throughout the state of Alabama," stated Suzi Blaylock, M.D., President of the ASSA. "Without the cooperation and assistance from groups around the state of Alabama, as well as representatives from Medicaid, progress on such matters would not have been possible. We are grateful to those very hard-working representatives as well as Commissioner Azar for their role and we look forward to a continued working relationship that maintains the provision of care to our patients."

In addition to the anesthesia rates, the Medical Association continues to work with Medicaid to advocate for increased reimbursement rates for all specialties.

Phase 3 Provider Relief Funds Announced by HHS



On October 1, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) announced an additional \$20 billion in funding for healthcare providers to assist with losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic. This additional funding is a result of the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Not only can providers who have already received Provider Relief Fund payments apply for additional funds during Phase 3, but previously ineligible providers may also apply during Phase 3.

[See the story on NewsCenter](#)

Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines



The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has established Isolation and Quarantine guidelines -- both for individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19, and close contacts for COVID-19 positive individuals -- that guide ADPH-issued quarantine orders. Health care providers are encouraged to inquire with patients as to whether they have been identified as a close contact and/or directed to quarantine to avoid issuing orders contrary to the Department's Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines and orders.

[See the guidelines here](#)



Need PPE?

PPE is still available!

- Direct Shipping now available
- Free shipping on orders over \$500
- Nitrile gloves now in stock

[Click here for info.](#)



Sanistrap

SaniStrap contains wristband, two refillable bottles, and one travel size refill bottle. Sanitizer is NOT included in order - liquid gel sanitizer is recommended.

[Click here for info.](#)



Hand Sanitizer

Hand Sanitizer Options Available are:

70% Alcohol Gel Hand Sanitizer. Twelve (12), One (1) Liter bottles with pull-tab cap.

[Click here for info.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- [Beyond a Moment — Reckoning with Our History and Embracing Antiracism in Medicine](#)
 - [Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\) Program Updates Related to Oxygen](#)
 - [Women May Continue to Experience Symptoms of Postpartum Depression 3 Years After Giving Birth](#)
 - [5 factors contributing to physician stress during the pandemic](#)
 - [What doctors can do now to be ready when COVID-19 vaccines arrive](#)
-

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