



NEW YEAR AND NEW LOOK WITH COPIC NEWS

As we kick off 2018, COPIC decided it was time to give our newsletters a makeover. We combined the previous COPIC Topics and Nebraska Bulletin to become COPIC News—a publication that keeps you informed of our efforts, the resources we provide, and how we impact health care. Besides having a new look, the newsletter has shifted to a quarterly publication and will feature inserts with state-specific news.

We hope you enjoy the new format and that it helps you understand how COPIC supports your efforts and strives to be a trusted partner.

Feedback? Comments on what you would like to see in future issues? Please email rpeacock@copic.com and let us know your thoughts.

COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Giving back to health care and those who make a difference

The COPIC Medical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports health care in three major ways: grant funding, the annual COPIC Humanitarian Award, and scholarships.

Background

The idea to create a foundation was championed by Harold “Hal” Williamson, COPIC’s first external non-physician board member. He was passionate about philanthropy and encouraged the Board of Directors to give back to health care in real and meaningful ways, which lead to the creation of the Foundation in 1991. Sadly, Hal passed away in 2001, but his spirit lives on in what the Foundation has become over the years.

Grant Funding

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting initiatives that focus on improving outcomes through:

- The education and training of health care professionals and health care teams.
- Development, implementation, or changes in health care-related systems, tools, and processes.
- Pilot programs designed to improve the delivery of medicine.

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COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION (FROM PAGE 1)

The Foundation has provided \$7 million in grant funding to more than 100 organizations since its inception. In 2017, examples of grants included the following:

- **Education on Managing Drug-Injecting Patients**—Harm Reduction Action Center
- **Mobile Simulation Training Equipment**—The University of Nebraska
- **Education program for Iowa's Candor law**—Iowa Medical Society Foundation
- **Physician-Consensus Measure of Performance to Advance Quality & Patient Safety**—Minnesota Medical Association

The next deadline to submit a grant application is April 1, 2018. To download an application, please visit www.copicfoundation.org

Scholarships

The Foundation provides scholarships to students in health-related areas of concentration. COPIC partners with medical schools in Colorado and Nebraska to offer these scholarship and also works with graduate level health care programs that focus on improving care and patient safety. The Foundation has provided over \$600,000 in student scholarships.

COPIC Humanitarian Award

In 2001, the Foundation established an award in honor of Harold "Hal" Williamson. Each year, the COPIC Humanitarian Award recognizes a physician going above the scope of his or her practice to volunteer in the community. The award provides a \$10,000 grant to be given to the health-related nonprofit of the recipient's choice.

The COPIC Humanitarian Award has been awarded to more than 20 physicians and has provided over \$270,000 to nonprofits in Colorado and Nebraska.

COPIC Medical Foundation Giving

\$7M
grant funding

\$600K
in scholarships

\$270K
humanitarian awards

ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Some of the most important investments COPIC makes are the relationships with health care organizations that are cultivated at the state level. These keep us connected to medical professionals, enable a deeper understanding of the challenges they face, and allows us to coordinate efforts with medical societies and specialty organizations.

Examples of efforts with partner organizations:

- Working together to monitor, review, and weigh in on legislation and regulation that has the potential to impact health care.
- Offer benefits to members who participate in activities that reduce risk and improve outcomes.
- Partner on medical student scholarship programs.
- Identify claims trends on the state level and develop resources to help medical professionals manage these (e.g., working with allied health professionals, opioid abuse, documentation standards, etc.).



THE ROLE OF PHYSICIANS AS BOARD MEMBERS AND FACULTY CONSULTANTS

Physician involvement that guides and supports our efforts

The notion of “physician involvement” is an embedded principle at COPIC. It is evident with two groups that contribute significantly to COPIC’s mission—the faculty consultants we work with and members of our Board of Directors.



Faculty Consultants

Overview: A network of physicians who serve as consultants to COPIC.

Areas of Involvement:

- They are called upon to help review cases related to their specialty.
- They attend at least two COPIC Claims Committee meetings per year.
- They participate in sessions to learn about operational issues such as premium rate determination, financial management, and public affairs.
- They also assist in specialty-specific tasks that may include claim evaluations, underwriting, risk management, and grant funding by the COPIC Medical Foundation.

Term: Three-year commitment

Candidate Qualifications: Physicians who are active in a medical or health care practice and insured by COPIC. Generally, candidates are at midpoints in their medical careers.



Board of Directors

Overview: Leadership team that oversees the management and strategic direction of the company.

Areas of Involvement:

- Members attend quarterly board meetings.
- They serve on various committees related to the different business aspects of the company.
- They engage in actuary and corporate management courses during their first year of tenure.
- They work closely with the management team to develop the company’s overall strategic plan.

Term: 12-year term

Candidate Qualifications: Physician leaders who also have an interest/experience in the business side of health care and who are specialized experts in their fields (non-physician board members also bring business leadership skills to the Board). In the past, several board members were faculty consultants before becoming part of the Board.

These groups serve dual roles as advisors and advocates. They provide COPIC with different perspectives and help identify emerging challenges. In addition, we consider these physicians as our first level of patient safety and risk management outreach. They have a strong voice in their professional networks and help COPIC disseminate information and provide feedback that helps develop programs and resources.

Referrals often lead physicians to become involved as faculty consultants or board members. The selection process identifies a mix of physicians with various backgrounds and experiences—geographic locations (urban versus rural settings), medical specialties, and practice size. Most importantly, we try to find physicians who fit in with COPIC’s culture.



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Did you miss a previous edition of COPIC newsletters?
Don't worry. A full archive of past newsletters
can be accessed on callcopic.com.

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To Make an Incident Report
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Connect with COPIC  



THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

OPIOIDS: AT THE FRONT OF HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN 2018

The Second Regular Session of Colorado's 71st General Assembly opened on January 10th. The convening of the Legislature this year was met with reflection on the successes that resulted last session due to collaboration on issues such as construction defects reform and the restructuring of the hospital provider fee. We are hoping to see Republicans and Democrats work together this year, however, compromise may be challenging as we head into a mid-term election. Leadership from both parties raised funding for transportation and the Public Employees Retirement Association as the major issues to address this session, but offered differing ideas on how to get there.

As noted in our August newsletter, the 2017 Legislature created an interim study committee to take up opioid and other substance use disorders. COPIC has been an active participant in the opioid conversation. For more than five years, we have focused on provider education about opioid prescribing. The challenges on this issue are many and the solutions will not be easy. The study committee met numerous times throughout the summer and fall to review data on the scope of the substance use disorder problem in Colorado, assess what resources are currently available within the state, examine what other states are doing, determine what efforts can be made to address the issue, and identify possible legislative remedies if necessary.

As always, COPIC is focused on preserving medical liability reforms and patient safety protections that have benefited Colorado, including the cap on non-economic damages in medical liability lawsuit judgments established within the Health Care Availability Act. Additionally, we will be paying close attention to bills that may add unreasonable burdens on physicians and hospitals, or negatively impact patient safety in the delivery of care or impede access to quality health care.

At COPIC, we continue to monitor policy and work with our partners at the Colorado Medical Society and Colorado Hospital Association. As always, we remain dedicated to improving medicine in the communities we serve and seeking out ways to change the status quo on medical professional liability so that it better serves all parties.

The Opioid Interim Study Committee Has Made Six Bill Recommendations Focused on the Following Areas:

- Providing for prevention and education for health care practitioners regarding managing patients with chronic pain and allowing for grant funding for school-based health centers to operate a substance use screening, brief intervention, and referral program.
- Restricting health care practitioners' opioid prescriptions to seven days for an initial prescription, with certain exceptions, and requiring health care practitioners to query the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program before prescribing the first refill of their initial prescription except under specified circumstances.
- Allowing immunity for participants in clean needle exchange programs.
- Expanding the availability of behavioral health care providers in shortage areas of the state.
- Adding residential and inpatient substance use disorder services to the Colorado medical assistance program, provided federal authorization is granted.
- Prohibiting individual and group health benefit plans and Medicaid from requiring prior authorization for medications to address substance abuse disorders.

As always, feel free to contact Beverly Razon, COPIC's Director of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6056 or brazon@copic.com if you have any questions or comments.

PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR MEETINGS

2018

Each year, COPIC hosts meetings designed to let practice staff connect with peers and learn about timely topics. The meetings are held at COPIC's Denver office and run from 11:30am-1pm (MDT) with lunch provided.

- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**

Quality Payment Programs—CORHIO/COPIC Patient Safety & Risk Mgmt

- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**

Treating Minors/Divorced Parents and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)—COPIC Legal Department

- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

Ageism in the Workplace—COPIC Human Resources Department

Can't make it in person?

Call and connect through our video conferencing services to watch and participate remotely. Please contact Diane Laff at (720) 858-6165 or dlaff@copic.com for more information.

COPIC's HR HOTLINE

Expert Advice is Just a Phone Call Away

Are you aware of recent changes in HR-related laws that impact how you hire, manage, and terminate employees? Are you looking for an HR expert to use as a sounding board for a tough decision you are facing?

COPIC's HR Hotline connects you with our HR experts who can help resolve employment-related issues. In addition, we can help identify outside resources to handle complex employment law situations. The HR Hotline is available during regular business hours, 8:30am-5pm (Mountain time), Monday through Friday by calling:

(844) 208-4680



NOMINATE A COLORADO PHYSICIAN FOR THE COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Do you know a Colorado physician who deserves to be recognized for going beyond the scope of their practice to improve lives in his or her community? If so, please consider nominating him or her for our annual COPIC Humanitarian Award. **Nominations are being accepted May 1 through August 31, 2018.** The award provides a \$10,000 grant to be given to a Colorado health care-related nonprofit organization of the recipient's choice.

To nominate a physician, visit COPIC Medical Foundation at www.copicfoundation.org and select "Harold E. Williamson Award," or email Kathy Brown at kbrown@copic.com.



THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

OPIOIDS: AT THE FRONT OF HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN 2018

Nebraska's Second Regular Session of the 105th Unicameral convened on January 3rd in Lincoln. The session begins with still fresh memories of the bitter divides from the last year, and many legislators are expecting this session to mirror the last. The Unicameral's biggest issues this year will be centered around the state's budget shortfall and the demands for tax cuts. Legislation impacting the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, University of Nebraska, K-12 education, and Department of Health and Human Services will also need to be taken up this year and could get caught in the crosshairs.

Health care bills expected to be taken up this session include bills aimed at mitigating the growing opioid addiction epidemic facing Nebraska. Although Nebraska has one of the lowest rates of overdose deaths in the nation, it saw 120 lives lost in 2016 due to overdose according to an *Omaha World Herald* article.

Bills Target Growing Opioid Addiction in Nebraska

Several bills have been introduced already with the aim to:

- Require continuing education for health care professionals regarding opiate prescriptions.
- Provide for seven-day supply limits for opiate prescriptions.
- Provide requirements for health care practitioner-directed patient education upon prescribing certain controlled substances.
- Require patients to present identification prior to receipt of dispensed opiates.

Other health care bills that will be taken up this session include efforts to:

- Expand telehealth and telemonitoring.
- Reduce the requirement to present proof of graduate medical education for foreign graduates from three years to two years.
- Allow for physician assistants and nurse practitioners to render expert opinions on matters within his or her scope of practice.
- Lower the age of consent for behavioral health services.
- Creation of a health care provider license fee to fund patient safety coalition activities.

At COPIC, we continue to monitor policy and work with our partners at the Nebraska Medical Association and Nebraska Hospital Association. As always, we remain dedicated to improving medicine in the communities we serve and seeking out ways to change the status quo on medical professional liability so that it better serves all parties.



The Nebraska Legislature is scheduled to adjourn its short session in mid-April.

As always, feel free to contact Beverly Razon, COPIC's Director of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6056 or brazon@copic.com if you have any questions or comments.

10th Annual

PATIENT SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM



Get Registered

Contact Stephanie Heronema
at sheronema@copic.com or
(800) 421-1834 ext. 6129
for more information.

Mark your calendar and register now for COPIC's 2018 Patient Safety & Risk Management Symposium. This event is known for nationally recognized speakers and informative presentations, and it provides several opportunities to connect and share insight with your peers.

WHEN/WHERE:

April 26-27, 2018 at the Embassy Suites Lincoln

WHO CAN ATTEND?

The Symposium is open to all COPIC-insured physicians, practice and office administrators, managers, allied health professionals, and other appropriate staff. There is no cost for COPIC insureds to attend.

DO ATTENDEES EARN COPIC POINTS AND OTHER CREDITS?

COPIC-insured physicians/eligible AHPs will earn 1 COPIC point per day for attending. Staff members can earn 1 COPIC point per day for one physician/eligible AHP in their practice (up to a maximum of 2 points). Maximum points that can be earned through physician/staff attendance is 4 points. The Symposium is also accredited and qualifies for physician and nursing credits: CME 9.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] and CNE 9.5 contact hours. For details, please visit www.callcopic.com/symposium

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

The event is from 8am–5pm on Thur., April 26, with breakfast and lunch provided. There is a dinner reception with entertainment from 6–9pm that night. On Fri., April 27, the event runs from 8am–noon with breakfast provided.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Please contact Stephanie Heronema at sheronema@copic.com or (800) 421-1834, ext. 6129 as soon as possible. The last day to reserve a hotel room with COPIC's group reservation is April 6. Please contact Embassy Suites Lincoln at (402) 474-1111 for room reservations. COPIC will cover the cost of hotel rooms for Symposium attendees, but you need to provide a credit card to hold the reservation.

NOMINATE A NEBRASKA PHYSICIAN FOR THE COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Each year, COPIC honors a Nebraska physician for his or her volunteer medical services and contributions to the community outside of their day-to-day lives. If you know a worthy candidate, please nominate him or her for this award.

The recipient of the award receives a \$10,000 grant from the COPIC Medical Foundation to be provided to a 501(c)(3) organization of the recipient's choosing (on his or her behalf) to fund ongoing

efforts to deliver and/or improve health care. We established this award in remembrance of Harold E. "Hal" Williamson. His encouragement and active participation led to the establishment of the COPIC Medical Foundation.

The nomination deadline for this year's award is **May 30**. Visit www.copicfoundation.org to download a nomination form, or email Kathy Brown at kbrown@copic.com for more information.