

The COPIC Points Program

Continuing Education That Can Earn You a Premium Discount



What is the COPIC Points Program?

This program was created to reward insureds who participate in COPIC's educational activities that include courses, seminars, and programs. Activities are developed by experts in our Patient Safety & Risk Management and Legal departments, and the content is designed to help address key areas of risk and current issues in health care. Not only do insureds gain valuable knowledge through these opportunities, but they also earn points that apply toward a premium discount. And many activities also qualify for CME credit.

Who can participate in the program?

Eligible COPIC-insured physicians, advanced practice providers, and facilities.

What are some activities that qualify for COPIC points?

- **Take an on-demand course**—Simply visit our site at www.callcopic.com/education; there are 60+ courses and most take around 30–45 minutes to complete.
- **Attend the COPIC Forum (insured facilities)**—This annual event is designed for staff at medical facilities and will be held in-person in Denver this year on October 6–8.
- **Complete a Practice Quality Review or Facility Assessment**—Overseen by experienced nurses, these reviews look at your practice's/facility's systems to identify potential areas of risk and help mitigate these with guidance on best practices and suggested improvements.

- **Consider customized trainings**—There may be opportunities to work with COPIC to develop a training that focuses on a particular issue that is relevant to your situation; if you are interested in scheduling a seminar at your facility or practice, please contact Carmenlita Byrd at cbyrd@copic.com or (800) 421-1834, ext. 6131.
- **Earn points for programs offered by other organizations**—COPIC will consider approving COPIC points for programs and seminars given by other organizations such as professional societies, medical societies, and hospital programs. These programs must be approved in advance and the decision is based on the patient safety and risk management content.

What are the other key details about the program?

- Points are earned during a one-year cycle that runs from January to December.
- Participants need to have a balance of 3 or more COPIC points at year-end in order to receive the premium discount on their subsequent year's policy renewal.
- Participants will be able to roll over excess points of those required in a given year and apply these to the subsequent year (up to a maximum of 6 points).
- Full- and part-time medical professionals will follow the same point system.

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THE COPIC POINTS PROGRAM (FROM PAGE 1)

- New eligible physicians, advanced practice providers, and allied health professionals automatically receive the premium discount, but need to participate in the program during their first full calendar year of being COPIC-insured to maintain the discount for the subsequent year.
- **Facilities:** All facilities insured under COPIC's facility policy form are eligible. Points are earned on a one-year cycle (Jan.-Dec.), and policyholders can earn up to three points each year to receive the premium discount for the upcoming renewal cycle. There is no rollover provision of excess points from one year to another. Discounts earned are applied toward the premium charged for facility coverage at a policy level only. Discounts are subject to minimum premium requirements and do not apply to premium charged for individuals listed on the policy.

Please note: Due to COVID-19, COPIC awarded each eligible physician and advanced practice provider 3 COPIC points to recognize the additional steps necessary to provide safe care during the pandemic. In addition, we awarded each of our eligible insured facilities the Tier 1 (3%) discount to recognize their efforts as well. This was a one-time action for 2020, and as of 1/1/21, the COPIC Points Program resumed as normal.



For more information, please contact us at (720) 858-6396 or email us at copicpoints@copic.com

COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION:



REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING PROPOSALS

The COPIC Medical Foundation will kick off its next round of strategic responsive grantmaking in November 2021. Potential candidates for grants need to complete and submit a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP for the 2022 grant cycle will be due January 14, 2022.

Area of focus for grants: Grants awarded will be for initiatives that focus on reducing fragmentation across care settings. A top concern in the field of patient safety, breakdowns in care from a fragmented health care system can lead to readmissions, missed diagnoses, medication errors, delayed treatment, duplicative testing and procedures, and reduction in quality of care leading to general patient and provider dissatisfaction. Our goal with grants is to contribute to a solution that addresses this concern and supports scalable or replicable solutions, focuses on the testing of new ideas or growing existing solutions, and then looking for avenues for larger applications in health care.

To be considered for funding, organizations must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Approach or program has demonstrated potential for uptake and/or replication in the health care community.
2. Organization is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization or has an identified fiduciary.

Please visit the website in November for more information: www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-medical-foundation



COPIC'S PATIENT SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT FORUM

Our annual Forum is an opportunity for professionals at insured medical facilities to gather and hear from national experts and COPIC staff about current issues in health care. Through presentations, interactive sessions, and networking with peers, this event is designed to address topics that are of concern and provide attendees with actionable guidance that they can utilize with their facility teams.

The 2021 Forum will take place October 6–8 at the Gaylord of the Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, CO. The following are some of the key topics that will be discussed:

- Peer review, credentialing, reporting implications
- Risk management surrounding behavioral health issues
- The Cures Act (Information Blocking Rule)
- Public relations, social media, and protecting your reputation

Registration information was sent to eligible insureds in July. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Heronema at (720) 858-6129 or sheronema@copic.com.

Save the date:
2021 PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR MEETING
Nov 9

Questions?
To receive details about how to connect to this meeting remotely, please contact Andrea Jones at ajones@copic.com

COPIC hosts these meetings several times a year to address topics of interest to insured practice administrators and provide them access to our team of experts.

- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, Noon-1pm (MST)**
Topic: Cyber Liability Issues and Protecting Your Practice

COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS



Nominate a physician who has gone above and beyond their clinical practice and made a difference in his or her community.

The COPIC Humanitarian Award is presented annually to honor a physician for volunteer medical services and contributions to their community. The recipient of the award designates a \$10,000 donation from COPIC to be provided to a health care-related 501(c)(3) organization within their respective state. If you know a worthy candidate, please nominate him or her for this award. A nomination form can be downloaded at www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award

- ➔ **COLORADO** Nominations accepted until Aug. 31
- ➔ **MINNESOTA** Nominations accepted until Aug. 15
- ➔ **NORTH DAKOTA** Nominations accepted until Aug. 31



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COPICNEWS

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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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THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

RECAP OF THE 2021 SESSION

The First Session of the 73rd Colorado Legislature adjourned on June 8. In total, 612 bills were introduced this session. Legislators took up a wide swath of ambitious initiatives this session including stricter marijuana regulation, gun control, unprecedented transportation funding, and the Colorado Public Option proposal.

Governor Jared Polis signed Colorado's \$34.1 billion 2021-22 budget into law in May, restoring cuts made during the coronavirus crisis last year and setting aside money for future economic downturns. COPIC's primary efforts this year were focused on defending Colorado's stable tort environment against legislation aimed at overturning or preempting court decisions. Our Public Affairs team engaged on a number of bills dealing with perinatal health and delivery, tort reform, prescription drug monitoring, and licensure credentialing and sunsets.

With federal dollars expected to flow into Colorado, the legislature plans to set up interim working groups to consider how best to appropriate these funds. There is still a chance that a special session will be called later in the summer. A few of the health care-related bills COPIC monitored and engaged on this year are highlighted below. These bills have passed the general assembly and were either signed by the Governor or are awaiting a final signature (unless otherwise noted).



HB21-1005

Health Care Services Reserve Corps Task Force. This bill creates the health care services reserve corps task force in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate and make recommendations on the creation of a health care services reserve corps program, in which medical professionals could cross-train to be able to serve the state in an emergency or disaster and receive student loan relief for their service.



HB21-1232

Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option. This is the Colorado Public Option proposal. The bill, as amended, gives the health care industry three years to reduce health insurance premiums by 15% (based on 2021 rates) in the individual and small group markets. If the premium reduction targets are not met by 2025, the bill would require the state to create a standard health insurance plan that carriers would be required to offer. The newly created insurance plan would include price caps on health care services provided by hospitals and doctors. The final bill language removed the mandatory participation for doctors and removed the ability to revoke hospital licensure as a means of enforcing mandatory participation by hospitals.



HB21-1012

Expand Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). This bill, as amended, grants the State Board of Pharmacy the authority via rulemaking to determine if the PDMP should track all prescription drugs in the state. If the Board determines that one or more prescription drugs should not be reported through the PDMP, the Board is required to make public the justification for the exclusion.



HB21-1251

Appropriate Use of Chemical Restraints on a Person. This bill aims to limit the use of ketamine in a non-hospital setting.



HB21-1188

Additional Liability Under Respondeat Superior. This bill seeks to overturn the Colorado Supreme Court's Ferrer ruling which adopted the McHaffie rule. The bill allows plaintiffs to sue not only a negligent employee, but will allow them to sue the employer for both vicarious liability for the acts of their employee and for derivative claims against the employer.



SB21-126

Timely Credentialing of Physicians by Insurers. This bill aims to expedite licensure credentialing for providers in Colorado.

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LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE (FROM PAGE 1)



SB21-193 AND SB21-194

A pair of bills aimed at improving perinatal care in non-clinical settings and aligning Colorado Medicaid with federal Medicaid expansion covering postpartum care. The bills contained a wide range of mandates and policy changes on accepting patient transfers from non-clinical care providers, providing payment parity for all providers providing labor and delivery care, and mandating medical professional liability insurance carriers to cover vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) care. However, COPIC, along with many health care partners, worked with the bill sponsors to remove the mandates and address our patient safety concerns.



SB21-061

Claims for Economic Damages Incurred by Minors. The bill sought to change current law that permits only parents or guardians to seek pre-majority medical expenses for an injury to a minor. The bill would have allowed a minor to bring a cause of action for injuries caused by another as well as extend the statute of limitations.

Status: This bill was laid over until the end of session and will not be considered further this year.



LICENSURE AND PROGRAM SUNSETS RENEWED IN 2021:

- SB21-092: **Sunset Surgical Assistants and Surgical Technologists.**
- SB21-093: **Sunset Continue Healthcare Infections Advisory Committee.**
- SB21-094: **Sunset Continue State Board of Pharmacy.**
- SB21-097: **Sunset Continue Medical Transparency Act.**
- SB21-098: **Sunset Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.**
- SB21-101: **Sunset Direct-entry Midwives.**

COPIC's Public Affairs team worked alongside our partners at the Colorado Medical Society and the Colorado Hospital Association to monitor health care legislation that will impact your ability to deliver safe, quality care. Focus now turns from following the legislature to monitoring and engaging on the rulemaking stakeholder process. Be sure to visit COPIC's Legislative Action Center at www.callcopic.com/resource-center/legislative-action-center for links to these bills and others we are following.

If you have any questions, please contact COPIC's Manager of Public Affairs, Logan Dunning, at ldunning@copic.com.

NOMINATE A COLORADO PHYSICIAN FOR THE COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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

The recipient of the award designates a \$10,000 donation from COPIC to be provided to a health care-related 501(c)(3) organization of the recipient's choosing (on his or her behalf).

Nominations are being accepted until **August 31, 2021**. To nominate a physician, please visit our website at www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award to download a nomination form.





THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

RECAP OF THE 2021 SESSION

The First Session of the 107th Nebraska Legislature adjourned on Thursday, May 27. In total, 684 bills were introduced during the first year of the two-year session. Bills that were not passed or voted down this year will carry over to the next regular legislative session, which begins January 5, 2022. A few of the health care-related bills COPIC monitored and engaged on this session are highlighted below:

PASSED LEGISLATION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 139

This bill adopts the COVID-19 Liability Act and the Health Care Crisis Protocol Act. This Act was approved by the Governor on May 25, 2021.

Under the COVID-19 Liability Act, a person may not bring a civil action for damages from exposure to COVID-19 for an act or omission that was in substantial compliance with any federal public health guidance that was applicable at the time. This only applies to acts or omissions on or after the effective date of the Act (5/25/21).

The Health Care Crisis Protocol Act references the "Health Care Crisis Protocol for the State of Nebraska" published by the Nebraska Medical Emergency Operations Center, dated May 10, 2021. If a health care facility is no longer able to provide the usual standard of care when the demand for medical services

exceeds supply as the result of a pervasive or catastrophic disaster, it may activate the health care crisis protocol.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 390

This bill would allow holders of medical licenses from other states to more easily receive a license to practice in Nebraska. It applies to certain health care professions that are regulated by Nebraska's Uniform Credentialing Act. This bill was approved by the governor on April 21, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 400

LB 400 amends the Nebraska Telehealth Act, which applies to the Medicaid program, to expand the definition of "telehealth" to include audio-only services for the delivery of behavioral health services. This bill was approved by the governor on April 21, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 411

LB 411 requires the sharing of information with the designated health information exchange (HIE). This bill aims to require health care facilities to participate in and provide clinical information to the state-sponsored HIE. This bill was approved by the Governor on May 24, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 583

This bill requires electronic prescriptions for controlled substances. The bill mandates electronic prescribing for controlled substances beginning January 1, 2022 and provides for exceptions. This bill was approved by the Governor on May 5, 2021.

CARRY-OVER LEGISLATION

(Not Passed or Voted Down)

LEGISLATIVE BILL 160

LB 160 would change provisions of the Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act. The bill aimed to increase the existing medical liability caps and the underlying fund limits. The bill was tabled for consideration until next session.

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE (FROM PAGE 1)

OTHER LEGISLATIVE NEWS

This month was also the deadline for interim study resolutions to be introduced. These studies tend to highlight a legislator's interest in an issue or send a signal that legislation might be introduced next session. COPIC is following the introduced study topics, particularly Legislative Resolution 200. The purpose of LR 200 is to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund.

The study will provide recommendations for any statutory or funding changes that the legislature should make in order to protect the ongoing viability of the fund which provides vital funding for more than 20 government programs including children's health insurance, aid for people with developmental disabilities, compulsive gambling assistance, and biomedical research.

COPIC will continue to work closely with our partners at the Nebraska Medical Association to track the implementation of passed legislation and develop education on how these policies will impact your practice. Be sure to visit COPIC's Legislative Action Center at www.callcopic.com/resource-center/legislative-action-center for links to these bills and others we are following.

If you have any questions, please contact COPIC's Manager of Public Affairs, Logan Dunning, at ldunning@copic.com.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 SYMPOSIUM



This year's Symposium was held virtually in April and more than 250 attendees participated. Each year, the Symposium provides an opportunity for physicians, practice managers, and other medical professionals to engage with COPIC staff and other experts on top-of-mind issues in health care. The 2021 schedule covered topics that ranged from peer review and telehealth to provider burnout and the newly implemented Cures Act Information Blocking Rules.

As always, we want to thank those who attended and made this annual event a forum for open discussion and shared insight. The following highlights some of the feedback we received from attendees:

"I appreciate the up-to-date information on new regulations."

"You guys always put on such a good program with such great information. It is great every year!"

"Engaged and relevant topics. Presented by knowledgeable individuals who are passionate about doing what is right."

"I like HIPAA refreshers. It's helpful to know what is 'rumor' and what is actual fact. Information about new laws is helpful."

"I thought this program was excellent and covered relevant topics related to the practice of medicine. Continued updates on new statutes and regulations is always very helpful."

SAVE THE DATE 2022 SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars as we plan to host next year's Symposium in-person at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE on April 28–29, 2022. Registration and more information will be sent out prior to the event.



THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

RECAP OF THE 2021 SESSION

The Iowa Legislature adjourned on Wednesday, May 19 after legislators extended the session by three weeks as they worked to finalize remaining priorities. In the end, the bill that aimed to harden the medical liability non-economic damages cap did not pass, nor was it included in the final standings bill—the last omnibus bill to be considered this session. COPIC will continue to navigate conversations and next steps with our health care and legislative partners in the coming months. A few of the health care-related bills that COPIC engaged on this session include:

PASSED LEGISLATION

SENATE FILE 619

Senate File 619 is an omnibus tax bill that incorporates language from House File 893, which includes language providing mental telehealth payment parity (see Division 13 in the bill).

HOUSE FILE 891

House File 891 is a Health and Human Services Appropriations bill that incorporates amended language from House File 852, which allows a sponsor of a medical residency program of an Iowa-based private or public hospital or affiliated nonprofit organization funding the payment of liability costs to receive state dollar-for-dollar matching funds to support the program, subject to a percentage of the state matching funds available each year (See Division 17 in the bill).

POSTPONED LEGISLATION

HOUSE FILE 117

House File 117 is a bill relating to the licensure of ambulatory surgical centers, providing for fees to be considered repayment receipts, and providing penalties.

HOUSE FILE 592

House File 592 relates to non-economic damage awards against health care providers.

HOUSE FILE 764

House File 764 is a bill relating to disciplinary hearings conducted by professional licensing boards.

SENATE FILE 557

Senate File 557 is the Senate companion bill to House File 592, relating to non-economic damage awards against health care providers.

COPIC will continue to work with our partners at the Iowa Medical Society to track implementation of passed legislation and develop education on how these policies may impact your practice. If you have any questions, please contact COPIC's Manager of Public Affairs, Logan Dunning, at ldunning@copic.com.

For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit the Legislative Action Center on our website at www.callcopic.com/resource-center/legislative-action-center

2021 IMS/COPIC PHYSICIAN HUMANITARIAN AWARD: DR. SELDEN SPENCER



The Iowa Medical Society (IMS) and COPIC are proud to announce that Dr. Selden Spencer of Ames, IA, was selected as the 2021 recipient of the IMS/COPIC Physician Humanitarian Award. Dr. Spencer is known for his extraordinary amount of volunteer service with numerous organizations over the years, in addition to his daily responsibilities as a busy neurologist. Locally, he donated his services as a physician at the Ames Free Medical clinic for more than 15 years (until the clinic closed in 2014) and he volunteers for Food at First, a nonprofit organization that provides a free meal program and food pantry to support the needs of residents in Story County.

Dr. Spencer has also volunteered his time on many international medical missions to Afghanistan, Haiti, and Ecuador, giving medical lectures and sharing his knowledge to help these communities. He has been on four trips as a volunteer for Living Waters for the World, an organization that focuses on offering ways to supply safe and pure water to indigent rural residents in Central and Latin America. In addition, he traveled

to Central America with an organization called Solar Under the Sun, which promotes solar energy sources for rural sites.

The IMS/COPIC Physician Humanitarian Award is presented each year to honor a physician in Iowa for volunteer medical services and contributions to their community through principles focused on human dignity, social justice, and compassion. Dr. Spencer has designated Primary

Health Care to receive the \$10,000 donation associated with the award. Primary Health Care manages clinics and a mobile health unit that provide medical and dental care to underserved individuals and families in Iowa since 1981.

The IMS/COPIC Physician Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. Spencer on April 16 at the President's Reception of the Iowa Medical Society, held as a virtual event this year.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 SYMPOSIUM

This year's Symposium was held virtually in April and more than 250 attendees participated. Each year, the Symposium provides an opportunity for physicians, practice managers, and other medical professionals to engage with COPIC staff and other experts on top-of-mind issues in health care. The 2021 schedule covered topics that ranged from peer review and telehealth to provider burnout and the newly implemented Cures Act Information Blocking Rules.



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