



## 2022 COPIC Medical Foundation Grant Recipients Announced



We're thrilled to announce that the COPIC Medical Foundation has awarded \$680,000 in grants to five organizations focused on reducing fragmentation in the health care system. Congratulations to the following organizations:

### >>Bryan Health Connect (Nebraska)

Funding will support a project to expand the Bamboo Health clinical event notification system to additional locations across Nebraska.

### >>Children's Hospital Colorado (Colorado)

The grant will be used for the rollout and implementation of the ImPACT Navigation Hub in care coordination for complex pediatric patients as they transition to adult care.

### >>Minnesota Medical Association Foundation (Minnesota)

Funding will be used for Project ECHO, which focuses on the challenge of transitioning youth with medical complexity to adult care in Minnesota.

### >>Providence Portland Medical Foundation (Oregon)

The grant will help a partnership between Providence and the Oregon Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Registry to build a bi-directional interface which integrates Providence's Epic electronic health record with the Registry.

### >>West Mountain Regional Health Alliance (Colorado)

Funding will support Community Resource Network West Mountain, a social information exchange platform in western Colorado that facilitates care coordination for individuals experiencing homelessness with coordination by hospitals, health and behavioral health providers, community organizations, and government agencies.

## COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

**Nominate a physician who has gone above and beyond their clinical practice and made a difference in the 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](http://www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award)

- ➔ **COLORADO**  
Nominations accepted May 1–Aug. 15
- ➔ **MINNESOTA**  
Nominations accepted May 1–June 24
- ➔ **NEBRASKA**  
Nominations accepted Feb. 1–May 13
- ➔ **NORTH DAKOTA**  
Nominations accepted April 1–Aug. 31
- ➔ **UTAH**  
Nominations accepted March 1–July 31

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## 8 WAYS TO PROTECT AGAINST RANSOMWARE

Ransomware is a type of malware (malicious software) that “kidnaps” your business data and holds it hostage until you pay a ransom. If you don’t pay the ransom, you lose your data, one way or another. Our cyber liability partners at Tokio Marine have highlighted eight ways to proactively address ransomware:

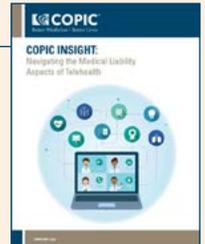
- 1 Train employees**—It sounds easy, but employees must never click on “bad links” or “bad attachments.” Learning to tell the difference requires training.
- 2 Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and access control**—50% of ransomware attacks are caused by poor RDP security. Therefore, properly securing RDP is essential. Also, ransomware will only encrypt files it can access so appropriately configuring access controls will help.
- 3 Install software patches**—Ransomware often finds “open gaps” in software to inject the poison. Patch software quickly to close the gaps and protect your assets.
- 4 Create offline backups**—Backups (clean, no ransomware) can save you. If you don’t pay the ransom or pay it but don’t receive the decryption key, a backup is the way to recover your data.
- 5 Implement two-factor authentication**—This protects your organization because it adds another layer of protection to password-protected remote access to your email.
- 6 Install and update “Next-Gen” antivirus**—Top-notch anti-virus programs hunt for new ransomware and other malware strains, then update their software to protect you.
- 7 Email security settings**—Social engineering attacks are very effective in facilitating a ransomware attack. Email security gateways are a key protective technology, and when properly configured, these technologies will assess and prevent most malicious emails and attachments.
- 8 Endpoint security**—If ransomware makes it through network defenses, endpoints are exposed. The endpoint is the gateway to all other network resources and data. To minimize the risk of the endpoint: remove local administrator rights from all employees and install (or activate) a recommended endpoint security program.

Did you know that COPIC’s medical liability insurance policies include embedded cyber liability coverage? The coverage is designed to offer protection and support against growing cyber risks, and it also provides access to resources that you can utilize to proactively plan for and prevent cyber breaches. Visit [www.callcopic.com/coverage-options/cyber-liability](http://www.callcopic.com/coverage-options/cyber-liability) for more information.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### TELEHEALTH GUIDE

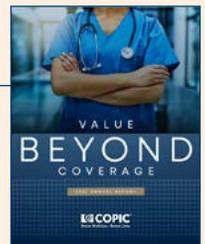
We have developed a new booklet titled *COPIC Insight: Navigating the Medical Liability Aspects of Telehealth*. It focuses on areas of telehealth that include coverage considerations (including how COPIC coverage applies), legal/regulatory issues (e.g., licensure, prescribing), key risk management factors (e.g., documentation, informed consent), a list of telehealth resources, and more.



► To download a copy, please visit [www.callcopic.com/resource-center/guidelines-tools/practice-management-resources](http://www.callcopic.com/resource-center/guidelines-tools/practice-management-resources)

### COPIC’S 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Our annual report reflects on the previous year to feature notable news, accomplishments, financial details, and other information. The 2021 report centers on the theme of “value beyond coverage” and highlights the company’s growth, resources to keep insureds informed, corporate social responsibility, and our overall commitment to COPIC’s mission.



► The 2021 Annual Report is available for download at [www.callcopic.com/about-copic/newsroom](http://www.callcopic.com/about-copic/newsroom).

► To request a hardcopy, please email Gina Rowland at [growland@copic.com](mailto:growland@copic.com).



## STEVE RUBIN—A STEADFAST LEADER FOR COPIC

At COPIC, there are principles that have steadily guided us—a mission-driven focus, investing in patient safety and risk management, and strong financial stewardship to name a few. Then there are the people who are pillars of these principles, and we'd like to recognize one of these individuals as he prepares to retire—Steve Rubin.

After serving as COPIC's President for the past 21 years, Steve will retire on June 30, 2022. Steve's influence on the company will continue to be with us long after his departure as we remember his humble demeanor, sharp business mind, smart sense of humor, and unwavering commitment to insureds, employees, and the community.

"COPIC has focused on helping medical providers deal with the challenges in delivering patient care. That's important, significant, and it matters," said Rubin. "I've enjoyed my time at COPIC and being surrounded by people who believed in what they were doing and brought a passion to their work. I believe COPIC always tried to do what is right and our strong mission-focus is something you don't find at every company."

Steve joined COPIC in 2000 after decades of executive experience in the areas of financial management, operations, and strategic planning. Prior to COPIC, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of FirstCity Financial, and CEO and part owner of MortgagePlus, a Denver-based national mortgage company. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green University and received his master's degree in Finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Steve's background before COPIC didn't involve insurance or health care, and this allowed him to bring a fresh, business-minded perspective to the company along with a different lens with which to

examine the fundamentals of medical liability insurance. From day one, he immersed himself in learning about all aspects of the business and retained his inquisitive approach over the years.

"Steve asks the questions that need to be asked. His ability to see past the nuances was crucial for COPIC. He opened my perspective to better understand the business and was a great mentor who allowed others to shine," said Sean Gelsey, COPIC's Senior Vice President of Claims & Strategic Partnerships.

“ Steve has an incredible mind that is able to take a vast amount of data, distill it, and come up with exceptional ideas. He never cowered from a problem. He knows his limitations, seeks out the expertise of those around him, and values the opinions of others. ”

-Dr. Gerald Zarleno  
COPIC's CEO

Steve played an important role in COPIC's growth over the years and balanced that with never losing focus of COPIC's mission and ideals. During his tenure, he faced his share of difficult business decisions and enjoyed working closely with others and challenging himself to figure out solutions.

Niles Cole, COPIC's Chief Financial Officer, characterized Steve as someone who always had the best

interests of COPIC in mind and contributed significantly to the stability of the company. In addition to his core responsibilities, Steve also played an important role in interacting with COPIC's Board of Directors and working with them on setting the company's strategic vision.

"He was always supportive of the initiatives that focused on helping our policyholders and used his business sense to figure out how to make them happen. He would encourage the board to explore ideas and have a robust discussion, but then always brought us back into focus around 'what is the right thing to do for our policyholders and doctors'," said Dr. Davis Hurley, a current COPIC board member.

"As I get ready to leave, COPIC is a bigger company, but what makes me truly proud is that it is a better company," said Rubin. "I always believed in the simple saying of 'work hard and have fun.' And I've reached that point in my career where it is time to step back and let others take over."



**Steve Rubin with his long-time assistant, Laura Wadleigh.**



## THE COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Improving patient care and outcomes through innovation and collaboration

### A REINVIGORATED FOCUS, TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS, AND \$680,000 OF GRANT FUNDING

#### A MESSAGE FROM SOPHIA MEHARENA, DO, FAAP



*As we mark two years since the start of the Coronavirus-19 pandemic, I want to thank each of you for your part in keeping the health care system functioning and serving patients despite the stress, the pressures, and the ongoing unknown. It is that level of selflessness and service to a greater good—that of the patient and the team—that makes me proud to be a part of this health care community.*

*As the new chair of the board of the COPIC Medical Foundation (CMF), I am also proud of the years of work that has culminated into the organization we are today and are working to become for tomorrow. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the community. As Dr. Harrington so eloquently outlined in our last newsletter, after thoughtful self-evaluation, the Foundation recently underwent changes to redefine the way we want to impact health care and patient safety. From that work came our reinvigorated focus on improving patient care and outcomes through innovation and collaboration. Thus, we are excited to announce our second round of grantees.*

*After reviewing some very competitive applications, we identified five organizations that will receive a combined \$680,000 of grant funding to improve patient outcomes by addressing fragmentation across health systems in four states. As with our last cycle, these grantees are leaders, innovators, and change makers. From accountable care organizations to foundations to large hospital systems, this year's grantees will collaborate with clinical,*

*governmental, and community-based organizations to support the needs of patients.*

*From youth with complex special needs to patients with predefined orders around life sustaining care, and beyond to other scenarios where patient care is transferred, it is exciting to not only think of the impact CMF grant funding will have on these individual institutions and their patient populations, but the potential for widespread impact across regions. This is why CMF is hosting our first annual grantee summit this summer! We believe when we gather to foster a focus on patient safety and disseminate what has been learned from those actually doing this work, progress can be exponential. We look forward to the ongoing collaboration and growth that this summit will promote.*

*Finally, the success of the Foundation hinges on dedicated and thoughtful leadership. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our board of directors, in particular, my predecessor, Dr. Brian Harrington, who just finished his term on the COPIC Medical Foundation board. I am grateful for his leadership and dedication to CMF. And I extend a warm welcome to our two newest board members, Dr. Harris Frankel and Romana Hasnain-Wynia, Ph.D., who both bring a breadth of experience and knowledge to the group. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve among a distinguished group of health care professionals.*

#### CMF ANNOUNCES 2022 GRANT FUNDING

**5** grantees from **4** different states have been selected to receive a combined **\$680,000** in grant funding.



## GET TO KNOW CMF'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS: DR. HARRIS FRANKEL AND ROMANA HASNAIN-WYNIA, PH.D.



### HARRIS FRANKEL, M.D.

Dr. Frankel is a native of Omaha, Nebraska with over three decades of leadership experience in physician practice, hospital, and health system settings. He is the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Compliance Officer for Nebraska Medicine, an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurological Sciences for University of Nebraska Medical Center, and maintains an active patient practice.

As CMO at Nebraska Medicine, Dr. Frankel serves as a resource to both administration and providers, working diligently to ensure the diverse interests of Nebraska Medicine's 1,000+ member medical staff is represented in health system initiatives and decisions. During his tenure, Dr. Frankel has been instrumental in driving change to improve quality, patient safety and outcomes, care re-design to reduce cost and waste, and improving both the patient and provider experiences. He also guides development of strategic relationships throughout Nebraska Medicine's clinical network, oversees the organization's disaster/emergency preparedness activities

and is engaged as an executive leader of the health system's philanthropic efforts.

In his compliance leadership role, Dr. Frankel oversees the accreditation/regulatory, compliance, privacy, internal audit, and risk management departments and is responsible for ensuring the health system acts with integrity and is consistent with its values.

Lastly, Dr. Frankel is deeply committed to Omaha and the state of Nebraska, and is active in educating and advising community leaders on initiatives designed to promote the health and well-being of local communities.

### ROMANA HASNAIN-WYNIA, PH.D.

Romana Hasnain-Wynia is the Chief Research Officer at Denver Health, where she oversees research and sponsored programs through the Office of Research. She mentors junior and mid-career investigators at Denver Health and the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus.

Prior to joining Denver Health, Dr. Hasnain-Wynia served as the Director of the Addressing Disparities program at the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute where she provided strategic oversight and leadership for the program's national funding priorities. She was the Director of the Center for Health Care Equity and Associate Professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and she spent a decade at the American Hospital Association's Health Research and Educational Trust as Vice President of Research. Her research focuses on advancing equity in health care with an emphasis on developing and integrating equity measurement in health systems and payment models. She currently serves on the National

Quality Forum's Disparities Standing Committee, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) committee to integrate equity measurement into payment and delivery models and is the Chair of the Board for the Colorado Health Institute. She also serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Health Affairs* and *Health Services Research*.

“ I really appreciate CMF's commitment to patient safety and supporting sustainable, evidence-based, systems-level change in health care to improve patient outcomes. I'm excited about the funding and educational opportunities CMF provides to emerging and established leaders. ”

### CMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sophia Meharena, DO, FAAP (Board Chair)**  
General Pediatrics—Aurora, CO

**Romana Hasnain-Wynia, PhD**  
Health Care Research—Denver, CO

**Rebecca Vogel, MD**  
General Surgery—Denver, CO

**Harris Frankel, MD**  
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**Alan Synn, MD, FACS**  
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# COPICNEWS

ISSUE 191 • 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2022

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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](http://callcopic.com).

## 2022 PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR MEETINGS

COPIC hosts these virtual meetings to address topics of interest to practice administrators and provide access to our team of experts. They also provide an interactive forum to connect with peers and discuss challenges in health care.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- **Wed., Jul. 27** (noon-1pm, MST): Focus on patient safety/risk management
- **Wed., Nov. 2** (noon-1pm, MST): Focus on human resources

Email invitations are sent to practice administrator staff several weeks prior to the meeting. If you would like to be added to the invite mailing list, or have any questions, please contact Andrea Jones at [ajones@copic.com](mailto:ajones@copic.com).

### Board of Directors

- Gerald Zarlengo, MD  
*Chairman and CEO*
- Steven A. Rubin  
*President*
- Matthew J. Fleishman, MD, FACR
- Harris A. Frankel, MD
- Davis K. Hurley, MD
- Sophia Meharena, DO
- Steve Neumann
- Harold R. Roth, MBA, JD, LLM
- Alan Synn, MD
- Rebecca Vogel, MD, FACS

### COPIC Insurance Company

- Switchboard**  
720/858-6000 or 800/421-1834
- Fax**  
877/263-6665
- 24/7 Risk Mgmt. Hotline**  
(for urgent, after hours inquiries)  
866/274-7511
- To Make an Incident Report**  
720/858-6395
- Legal Helpline**  
720/858-6030
- Claims Department**  
720/858-6157

- Patient Safety & Risk Management Department**  
720/858-6396  
720/858-6003 (fax)
- Sales Department**  
720/858-6199
- Customer Support**  
720/858-6160
- Underwriting**  
720/858-6176
- Credentialing**  
720/858-6160

### COPIC Financial Service Group, Ltd.

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- Fax**  
720/858-6281
- Website**  
[www.copicfsg.com](http://www.copicfsg.com)

### COPIC Medical Foundation

- 720/858-6060
- Fax**  
720/858-6005
- Website**  
[www.copicfoundation.org](http://www.copicfoundation.org)

[www.callcopic.com](http://www.callcopic.com)

Connect with COPIC  



## THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 SESSION

During the final weeks of March and early April, the Colorado General Assembly debated a \$36 billion state budget proposal. The fiscal year 2022-23 budget, which will go into effect July 1, is roughly \$2 billion larger than the state's current budget. More than 550 bills were introduced this session with more expected to come. With the state budget finalized, the pace of the session is expected to pick up in the coming weeks as adjournment draws near. The General Assembly is expected to adjourn on May 11 when the focus will shift to the Primary Election season. Colorado's Primary Election Day will be held on Tuesday, June 28.

#### POLICY AREAS WE ARE MONITORING IN 2022



#### HOUSE BILL 1050

**International Medical Graduate Integrate Health Care Workforce:** This bill includes a call from the Nurse-Physician Advisory Task Force for Colorado Healthcare (NPATCH) for the creation of the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Assistance Program. The program would streamline the process for international medical graduates to obtain licensure in Colorado.

a prescriber to designate an unlimited number of designees and creates a process for vendor selection and reimbursement payments for the integration of the PDMP into EMRs.



#### SENATE BILL 27

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:** A bill adopting DORA recommendations stemming from a state audit report conducted in 2021. The recommendations include stricter querying requirements on benzodiazepines, clarifying registration requirements and enhancing enforcement for health care providers.



#### HOUSE BILL 1272

**Repeal of Attorney Fees on Motions to Dismiss:** This bill aimed to repeal a provision that awards a defendant attorney fees in a tort action when the case is dismissed by the defendant prior to trial. It was amended in the House to preserve the protections for defendants while adding language to clarify existing rights for plaintiffs.



#### HOUSE BILL 1256

**Modifications to Civil Involuntary Commitment:** This bill seeks to reform the M-1 hold and 72-hour treatment and evaluation process in Colorado by placing new requirements on all emergency medical service facilities and staff that currently only apply to designated mental health facilities. COPIC is engaged in these discussions and will work with our partners to reduce the significant burdens this bill would place on emergency departments and emergency department health care providers.



#### HOUSE BILL 1115

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP):** This bill, similar to Senate Bill 27, clarifies a requirement that all prescribers must query the PDMP for every fill of an opioid or benzodiazepine and maintain an active user account within the PDMP. It also allows

By working closely with our colleagues at the Colorado Medical Society and the Colorado Hospital Association, we track legislation using the lens of stabilizing the tort environment, promoting learning in health care, ensuring the delivery of safe, quality care, and protecting the patient and physician relationship.

For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit us at [www.callcopic.com](http://www.callcopic.com) and go to the Legislative Action Center link under the Resource Center section. If you have any questions, please contact COPIC's Manager of Public Affairs, Logan Dunning, at [ldunning@copic.com](mailto:ldunning@copic.com).

## COPIC PEER REVIEW NETWORK

CONNECT WITH AVAILABLE PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL REVIEW SERVICES

COPIC understands that many of our insured facilities and practices face challenges in obtaining professional review services because of the small number of providers in certain specialties, possible conflicts of interest with providers reviewing partners or competitors, and high costs associated with third party review services. Therefore, we developed an alternative for our insureds, the COPIC Peer Review Network (CPRN).

CPRN offers a pool of providers identified by each participating policyholder to facilitate professional review in a wide range of specialties. **This is a voluntary opportunity and there is no cost to join the network.** Our aim is to establish a network of providers who will act as a resource in performing external professional review services for other participating policyholders. This opportunity provides a solution to an identified need and, more importantly, a mechanism to collaborate in improving quality care.

To learn more about the COPIC Peer Review Network, please contact Amy Herum at [aherum@copic.com](mailto:aherum@copic.com).

Participating policyholders will need to:

- Complete a participation agreement.
- Verify to COPIC that it has peer review policies and procedures in place.
- You must be registered as a peer review organization with the Division of Professions and Occupations (DORA) in order to participate.
- After discussion with physicians and advanced practice nurses (APRNs), access the network to add the initial list of physician specialties and APRN scopes of practice represented by your providers available to provide professional review services to other facilities and practices insured by COPIC.
- Maintain the listing of specialties and APRN classifications along with your participation status and contact information on the COPIC website.
- Upon request from another participating policyholder, provide the contact information for physicians and/or APRNs who have agreed to provide services.

## COLORADO COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD—DR. TED NING

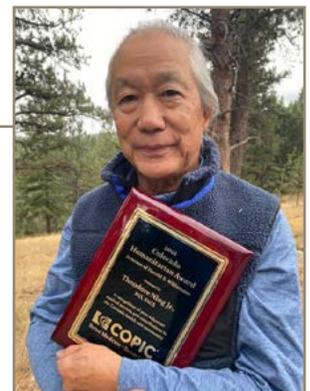
Dr. Ted Ning is a successful urologist who decided to leave his practice at the age of 50 to follow his heart and passion to help others. As a founding and participatory member in a variety of nonprofit organizations, the local and international community has been significantly impacted by Dr. Ning's vision, strategy, and commitment to addressing social issues.

Beginning in residency, Dr. Ning spent countless volunteer hours working at the Denver Free Clinic and with Operation BabyLift, a program to care for orphans evacuated from Vietnam as the war ended. After residency, he continued his volunteer efforts by implementing and growing numerous nonprofit organizations. Throughout the years, Dr. Ning has volunteered his time in causes that empower women in impoverished countries like Guatemala and Vietnam.

Additionally, Dr. Ning has served as the Founding Board President for Resilience1220 which provides free counseling services to youth ages 12-20 in the mountain communities west of Denver. Through counseling, support

groups, and community outreach, Resilience1220 works to raise awareness of the social, emotional, and mental health issues young adults face, and to provide the necessary life skills to create wellness and resiliency in their lives.

The list of Dr. Ning's volunteer activities, contributions, and recognitions is extensive. For these and many other reasons, COPIC and the Colorado Medical Society have selected him as the honoree for the 2021 COPIC Humanitarian Award. Dr. Ning has chosen Resilience1220 as the beneficiary of the \$10,000 donation associated with the award.





## THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 SESSION

COPIC has long believed that taking an active role in advocating on legislative issues is an important way to allow the health care community to devote its resources to quality improvement and patient care. COPIC monitors regulation and legislation in Nebraska to ensure that access to safe, quality health care delivery is maintained, and new, unreasonable burdens are not placed on health care providers.

By working closely with the Nebraska Medical Association, COPIC tracks legislation using the lens of stabilizing the tort environment, promoting learning in health care, ensuring the delivery of safe, quality care, and protecting the patient and physician relationship. During the final days of the session, the Unicameral prioritized a few remaining measures, including finalizing the state budget and allocating the \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Unicameral adjourned on April 20 and the focus now shifts to the Primary election season. Nebraska's Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 10. March 1 was the final deadline for candidates to file to run for elected office this year. Twelve candidates filed to run for governor. Further, 24 of Nebraska's 49 legislative seats are up for election in 2022. Below is a list of bills COPIC monitored this session:



#### LEGISLATIVE BILL 697

This bill creates language around the licensure of rural emergency hospitals and services provided. The bill allows current Critical Access Hospitals and rural Prospective Payment System hospitals with fewer than 50 beds to convert to Rural Emergency Hospital status in order to furnish certain outpatient hospital services in rural areas, including emergency department and observation services. This measure is supported by the Nebraska Hospital Association.



#### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING

**Legislative Bill 1014:** This bill appropriates federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This omnibus ARPA appropriations bill houses language from the following measures:

- ➔ **Legislative Bill 1066:** This bill appropriates ARPA funds to DHHS and the University of Nebraska for behavioral health care services.
- ➔ **Legislative Bill 1075:** This bill appropriates ARPA funds to DHHS for technology that will support statewide pediatric mental health services.
- ➔ **Legislative Bill 1089:** This bill appropriates ARPA funds to DHHS for licensed and Medicaid-certified nursing facilities.

**For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit us at [www.callcopic.com](http://www.callcopic.com) and go to the Legislative Action Center link under the Resource Center section.**

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## NOMINATE A NEBRASKA PHYSICIAN FOR THE COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD



**Each year, COPIC honors a Nebraska physician for extraordinary volunteer medical services and contributions to the community. 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 within their respective state. The COPIC Humanitarian Award was established in 2001 in memory of Harold E. "Hal" Williamson. Hal was one of the first non-physician board members of COPIC. His inspiration and his dedication to going above and beyond led to the establishment of the COPIC Medical Foundation.

Nominations are being accepted **now through May 13, 2022**. To nominate a physician, visit [www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award](http://www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award) and download a nomination form. For more information, please contact Laura Wadleigh at [lwadleigh@copic.com](mailto:lwadleigh@copic.com).



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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 SESSION

COPIC has long believed that taking an active role in advocating on legislative issues is an important way to allow the health care community to devote its resources to quality improvement and patient care. COPIC monitors regulation and legislation in Iowa to ensure that access to safe, quality health care delivery is maintained, and new, unreasonable burdens are not placed on health care providers.

By working closely with our colleagues at the Iowa Medical Society, COPIC tracks legislation using the lens of stabilizing the tort environment, promoting learning in health care, ensuring the delivery of safe, quality care, and protecting the patient and physician relationship. Since the Iowa Legislature convened in January, COPIC's focus, along with our colleagues at the Iowa Medical Society, has primarily been on advancing a priority measure of Governor Kim Reynolds that includes a hard cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases. The bill, Senate File 2275 listed below, aims to set a hard cap for noneconomic damages at \$1 million. As of the writing of this publication, the Senate version has passed out of committee and is awaiting further action. Legislators have an incentive to wrap up their work for the year with primary election season looming. The filing deadline for candidates to run for state office was March 18, 2022. Iowa's Primary Election will be held on June 7, 2022.

#### POLICY AREAS WE ARE MONITORING IN 2022



#### HOUSE FILE 2248

This bill requires a health care provider who determines that a patient is a candidate for outpatient surgery and refers the patient to an ambulatory surgical center, to provide the patient with a written document listing the factors the patient should consider in order to make a fully informed decision about the patient's recommended course of care.



#### HOUSE FILE 2388

This bill creates a new Code chapter to provide for the licensing and regulation of ambulatory surgical centers. The bill prohibits the establishment, operation, or maintenance of an ambulatory surgical center in the state without obtaining a license.



#### HOUSE FILE 803

This is a carry-over bill from the 2021 session that expands duties that can be performed by physician assistants to include, by statute, duties that currently can only be performed by a physician. The bill does not remove the requirement for PAs to be supervised by a physician.



#### SENATE FILE 2275

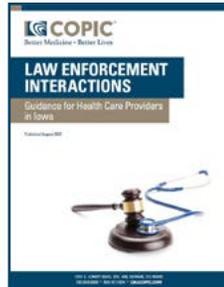
This bill is a measure that includes language creating a hard cap on medical liability noneconomic damages at \$1 million. This was a companion bill to HF 2279 which was amended in the House to remove the cap, but the bill failed to pass a vote on the House floor.

**For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit us at [www.callcopic.com](http://www.callcopic.com) and go to the Legislative Action Center link under the Resource Center section. If you have any questions, please contact COPIC's Manager of Public Affairs, Logan Dunning, at [ldunning@copic.com](mailto:ldunning@copic.com).**

# IOWA RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON COPIC'S WEBSITE

## >>Law Enforcement Interactions

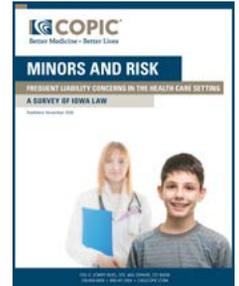
Health care providers may experience interactions with law enforcement personnel that create uncertainty around their responsibilities to patients, including the duty to protect patients' privacy. Law enforcement personnel are tasked with ensuring public safety and conducting criminal investigations. When these duties intersect as they relate to patients in the health care system, providers should understand how to meet their obligations while respecting the requests of law enforcement personnel. This guide addresses situations such as:



- Key considerations for any law enforcement interaction
- Reporting adult victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
- Disclosures for law enforcement purposes under HIPAA
- Drug and alcohol testing
- Serious threats to health or public safety

## >>Minors and Risk: Frequent Liability Concerns in the Health Care Setting

This booklet was developed to help medical providers understand and navigate legal issues they may encounter with patients who are minors. The situations addressed include the following:



- Parental rights around making medical decisions with children; including issues with divorced parents
- Minors and HIPAA
- Situations when a minor can consent to medical care without parental consent
- Dealing with sexually transmitted infections
- Child abuse and reporting
- Mental health and minors

Both of these booklets are available for download at [www.callcopic.com/resource-center/guidelines-tools/practice-management-resources](http://www.callcopic.com/resource-center/guidelines-tools/practice-management-resources)



## WEBSITE RESOURCE: MEDICAL GUIDELINES AND TOOLS

COPIC offers valuable resources in the Medical Tools and Guidelines section of our website. (Login with username and password is required to access this information.) Insureds can easily download and utilize the following items:

### Clinical Guidelines

Key guidelines for medical procedures/specialties.

### Consent Forms

Consent forms that can be customized for specific situations.

### HIPAA Forms and Materials

Forms, checklists and other materials for HIPAA compliance.

### Opioid Resources

Guidelines for providers prescribing and managing opioids.

### HR Resources Library

Useful HR resources such as job descriptions and common HR forms.

### Practice Management Resources

Resources that cover common issues that practices face.