



Understanding COPIC's Premium Rates



Like other types of insurance, COPIC's premium rates are developed by analyzing data about past experience and current trends in order to estimate future risk and claims costs. Rates are determined on an annual basis and the prominent individual factors that influence your particular premium are medical specialty, geographic location, and claims history.

COPIC is committed to being transparent about our rate determination process and communicating any adjustments to our policyholders. It is important to remember that any premium percentage changes reflect base level adjustments and your policy discounts and other credits are applied to develop the actual premium amount.

What are the key factors that are analyzed to determine rates?

- Costs to defend against medical liability claims and lawsuits
- Claims frequency and severity (how often claims occur and total amount paid per claim)
- Medical and legal trends that may impact claims
- Actuarial projections for future claims

How does my medical specialty impact rates?

COPIC reviews specialty-specific factors that may impact claims such as geographic location of practice, procedures performed, and the frequency/severity of claims. These assessments help us to identify differences between specialties that are used in calculating premium rates.

Does the state where I practice impact rates?

Yes. Claims experience at the state and county level along with a state's medical liability environment are evaluated and influence one's premium rate.

What other factors influence rates?

In addition, rates are also influenced by each policy's limits of liability, who is covered under the policy, claims history, and policy maturity (how many years you have been with COPIC).

What should I consider when looking at rates versus actual premiums?

As noted before, discounts, distributions, and other elements are applied to develop the actual premium amount. Some of the common discounts COPIC offers include:

- Earning COPIC points through participation in educational activities
- Being a member of your state medical association/society
- Discounts for new physicians and part-time practice

As always, we thank you for choosing COPIC as your medical liability insurance carrier and trusting us to serve as a partner in health care. We are committed to supporting our policyholders, defending the practice of good medicine, and improving medicine in the communities we serve.

INSIDE

2
HARDEN YOUR
CYBER "ATTACK
SURFACE"

2
COPIC HONORED WITH
CIVIC 50 AWARD

3
COPIC VALUE-
ADDED SERVICES:
LEGAL NAVIGATOR

4
COPIC MEDICAL
FOUNDATION NEWS



HARDEN YOUR CYBER "ATTACK SURFACE"

Criminals exploit poor configurations, weak controls, and other poor cyber practices to gain initial access to a victim's system. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides an excellent roadmap on how to protect your attack surface by identifying the commonly exploited controls and the best practices to mitigate them (www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts/aa22-137a). By understanding these common attack vectors, you can reduce your chances of falling victim to ransomware and other cyber threats.

Malicious actors often exploit the following common weak security controls, poor configurations, and poor security practices to deploy the initial access techniques:

- Multifactor authentication (MFA) is not enforced.
- Incorrectly applied privileges or permissions and errors within access control lists.
- Software is not up to date.
- Use of vendor-supplied default configurations or default login usernames and passwords.
- Remote services, such as a virtual private network (VPN), lack sufficient controls to prevent unauthorized access.
- Strong password policies are not implemented.
- Cloud services are unprotected.
- Open ports and misconfigured services are exposed to the internet.

- Failure to detect or block phishing attempts.
- Poor endpoint detection and response.

Securing these pathways is essential to preventing a data breach. Here are some recommendations:

- Implement MFA on all remote access, email, and admin accounts.
- Develop a software and patch management program.
- Implement endpoint and detection response tools.
- Maintain rigorous configuration management programs.
- Give employees only the necessary resources and access to perform their tasks.
- Train employees to recognize phishing emails and other social engineering.

Source: Tokio Marine

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 for more information.

COPIC NAMED AS ONE OF THE MOST COMMUNITY-MINDED COMPANIES IN COLORADO FOR 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



COPIC has been named an honoree of The Civic 50 Colorado by CSR Solutions of Colorado and Points of Light, the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service. The award recognizes COPIC as one of the most community-minded companies in Colorado, determined by an independently administered and scored survey. The Civic 50 Colorado initiative,

modeled after Points of Light's national program, provides a standard for superior corporate citizenship and showcases how companies can use their time, talents, skills, and resources to drive social impact in their company and communities.

For more information about The Civic 50 Colorado and this year's honorees, visit: www.bcivic.org/the-civic-50-colorado

COPIC VALUE-ADDED SERVICES: COPIC LEGAL NAVIGATOR™

With ever-changing health care rules, regulations, and requirements, it can be a challenge to stay on top of everything. That's why we offer COPIC Legal Navigator—services designed to help insureds understand legal and regulatory elements and how these impact their medical practice or facility.

COPIC provides access to attorneys and legal staff to provide general information and regulatory guidance on complex health care topics. This support is available for physicians, group practices, medical facilities, and hospitals.

COPIC has an extensive network of experienced defense attorneys in the states we provide coverage; when appropriate, we provide referrals to outside attorneys for one-on-one consultations (separate, private pay).

KEY AREAS WHERE COPIC LEGAL NAVIGATOR PROVIDES SUPPORT:

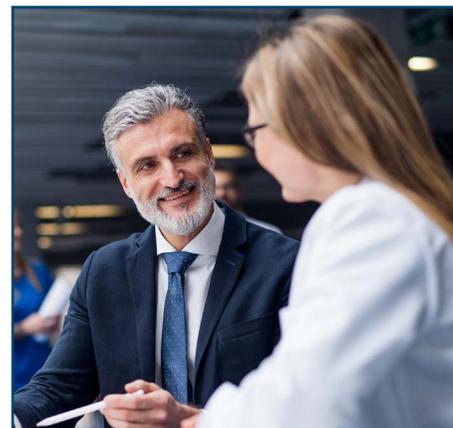
- Advance Directives
- EMTALA
- Medical Records
- Telemedicine/Telehealth
- Liability with Allied Health Professionals
- Informed Consent
- Fraud and Abuse
- Subpoenas
- HIPAA
- Peer/Professional Review
- Compliance Issues
- 21st Century Cures Act

LEGAL SEMINARS, ON-DEMAND COURSES, AND WEBINARS

Throughout the year, we offer educational activities that focus on key legal topics. Participation may apply toward an annual premium discount and also qualify for CME credits. Examples of popular topics include:

- Defending a Medical Liability Case
- Informed Consent
- Physician Advertising
- Risk and Liability Issues Regarding Minors
- Electronic Medical Records: Discovery and Liability Issues
- Fraud and Abuse
- Social Media and Liability Issues
- Telemedicine
- HIPAA
- Information Blocking Rule Under the 21st Century Cures Act

For information about the presentations available, please call (720) 858-6131.



COPIC LEGAL HELPLINE

Call (720) 858-6030 to connect with a member of the COPIC legal team; available from 9am–5pm (Mountain Time), Monday through Friday or email LegalHL@copic.com.

SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS

COPIC's legal team has developed several publications that provide an in-depth analysis of specific issues such as:

- Law Enforcement Interactions
- Considerations for Managed Care Contracts
- Minors and Risk
- The Potential Dangers of “Hold Harmless” and “Indemnity” Agreements
- COPIC Insight—Navigating the Medical Liability Aspects of Telehealth

State laws, regulations, and legal environments may limit the scope of availability of certain services and programs. Please also note that bar licensure rules prohibit members of the Legal Department to provide legal advice or representation to insureds.



THE COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Improving patient care and outcomes through innovation and collaboration

WHAT IS A FRAGMENTED HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENT?

FROM ALAN SYN, MD, FACS



We all know that medical care is increasingly complicated. Physicians have sophisticated diagnostic and treatment paradigms that are augmented by tremendous technological advancements. This has resulted in patients who have several chronic medical conditions seeing an average of 16 different physicians a year. When you add the proliferation of free-standing urgent care centers, pharmacy clinics, citywide health screenings, and alternative care, the traditional model of primary care referring patients to specialists who then manage the outcome is rare. How can we keep track of what each medical professional is doing? As a practicing vascular surgeon in Denver for the past 27 years, these are issues that keep me up at night.

An additional layer of complication are the social determinants that affect a patient's visit. When a patient cannot afford the prescription, cannot figure out public transportation to the imaging center, or does not understand the language translation, important details can go undetected.

Further, our patients expect that their up-to-date medical information

from all providers is available to us. They can become understandably upset or confused by the system that fails to meet this expectation. We are frustrated by hunting down unavailable information, inadvertent duplicative test ordering, medication errors, and missed diagnoses. We worry about our patients' information that we cannot readily access or that we do not even know exists. This is what fragmentation looks like.

THE COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION'S PRIORITIES ARE FOCUSED ON REDUCING FRAGMENTATION IN CARE SETTINGS. AND FOR THIS, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

I am certain that there is an organization out there that can help overcome the perils of fragmentation. I suspect this organization will have a surprisingly simple concept, just like how Amazon started as a mere online bookstore and Tesla disrupted the concept of needing a big auto dealership showroom. Innovative changes can lead to surprising results.

I believe this organization may already exist, has the great idea, and needs

a place to test it out. It might serve a rural or urban environment, and may or may not be affiliated with a health system. Its focus might be pediatrics, women's health, or mental health and it may be domiciled anywhere in the country. These details aren't the important part.

What is important is that the COPIC Medical Foundation (CMF) wants to meet the people and organizations who have those ideas and are developing programs to address them. We want to do all we can to help eradicate the current fragmentation challenges in our health care environment.

CMF has financial resources to grant organizations on the cusp of innovation, and we'd like to serve as a catalyst for their work to maximize the impact on patient safety. Each November, we launch an RFP and select programs to receive grants that have a solid base and replicable solutions. Once they become a member of the CMF grantee cohort, we connect them with others to create a synergy of expertise and share their experiences. Find more information at www.copicfoundation.org and please spread the word.

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Executive Director

COPIC Medical Foundation: 2023 GRANT FUNDING

The COPIC Medical Foundation (CMF) works to improve health care outcomes through grant funding of:

- 1 Programs and initiatives that improve patient safety and quality of care or through systems changes and improvements.
- 2 Pilot programs that are designed to reduce medical errors.
- 3 Development and implementation of checklists and other tools to improve disease management and transitions in care.

2023 FOCUS AREA

Fragmentation Across Care Settings

For 2023, our grant funding will continue to focus on the issue of 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. For CMF, contributing to a solution to this safety concern means supporting scalable or replicable solutions, focusing on the testing of new ideas or growing existing solutions, and then seeing avenues for larger application.

FUNDING CYCLE

CMF is accepting applications November 1, 2022 through January 13, 2023 for its 2023 cycle of grant funding.

CRITERIA

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

- Approach or program has demonstrated potential for uptake or replication by the health care community
- Organization is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization or has an identified fiduciary

DEADLINES AND APPLICATIONS

Grant applications are due January 13, 2023 by 5pm (Mountain Time). Applications can be emailed to: mhintze@copic.com. Applicants can expect to hear from CMF regarding potential support by March 15, 2023.

Download the grant requirements and application on the COPIC website at www.copicfoundation.org.

CMF EVENTS

CMF hosted the inaugural Grantee Summit in June and welcomed **11 grantees**



who represented the **5 grantee organizations** chosen in 2021. The two-day meeting was filled with lessons and learnings, connections and collaboration!



In June, CMF underwrote a week of the Academy for Emerging Leadership in

Patient Safety program with a **\$100,000 grant** which covered the expenses for **22 residents** to spend five days learning from patient safety experts and leaders from across the country.

COPIC'S PODCAST FEATURES FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS



COPIC's Director of Education and podcast host Eric Zacharias, MD, recently spearheaded a special series of episodes that focuses on organizations that received grant funding from the Foundation

for initiatives that address the issue of reducing fragmentation across care settings. Take a listen on your favorite podcast platform! Or, for a list of episodes visit www.callcopic.com/wnlpodcast.



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COPICNEWS

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INSIDE

- 1 UNDERSTANDING COPIC'S PREMIUM RATES
- 2 HARDEN YOUR CYBER "ATTACK SURFACE"
- 2 COPIC HONORED WITH CIVIC 50 AWARD
- 3 COPIC VALUE-ADDED SERVICES: LEGAL NAVIGATOR
- 4 COPIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION NEWS

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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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**
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- Legal Helpline**
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Connect with COPIC  



THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

PREPARING FOR THE 2023 SESSION

A critical piece of COPIC's legislative advocacy is meeting with state-level candidates to discuss our priority of improving medicine so that patients have access to safe, quality care. Through the summer and fall months, COPIC met with legislators about the issues that are vital to maintaining balance in Colorado's health care environment. These meetings also provide opportunities to understand the candidates' views on health care policy, engage in thoughtful discussions, and extend COPIC's resources to inform their efforts. In addition, our Public Affairs team strives to offer informed, nonpartisan insight that considers both the challenges of medical providers and the concerns of patients.

COPIC'S SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATORS

Through candidate meetings, COPIC can identify those individuals who share our legislative priorities. In an effort to demonstrate support, COPIC financially contributes directly to their campaigns as well as sponsors non-coordinated positive campaign communications supporting their candidacy.

Each election, we ensure that the campaign communications we sponsor are positive and free of attacks on any candidate. COPIC will not contribute to the negative tone that seems to permeate the campaign season.

ELECTION SEASON 2022

In 2020, Colorado underwent a political redistricting process that redrew the lines of congressional and state legislative districts. This process created 36 new districts with open seats (22 House, 12 Senate). This election year, Colorado's ticket of legislative incumbents and new candidates hit the campaign trail to make their case to constituents about why they are the right person to serve Colorado at the General Assembly in 2023.

Why does this matter? The candidates who prevailed in the general elections will go on to introduce, debate, and vote on policy that impacts the delivery of medicine in Colorado.

ELECTION RESULTS BREAKDOWN

COPIC is encouraged that many of the incumbents we support were re-elected to the legislature in addition to many new candidates that COPIC met with early in their candidacy to establish positive relationships. We remain optimistic that these legislators share our goal of improving access to safe, quality health care delivery.

Colorado entered the 2022 elections with the Democrats holding a majority in the Colorado Senate with 20 seats to 15 seats. Senator Kevin Priola made a last-minute party swap from Republican to Democrat, expanding the majority by one seat.

At the time of publication, Colorado's State Senate and House of Representatives will remain in Democratic control. The Colorado State Senate saw the Democrats pick up three seats, expanding their majority to 23 (D) to 12 (R). The Colorado House saw Democrats pick up four seats, expanding their majority to 46 (D) to 19 (R). Incumbent Democratic governor Jared Polis won his re-election bid against Republican challenger Heidi Ganahl, and he will serve for the next four years.

LOOKING AHEAD

COPIC's Public Affairs team continues to engage with our health care partners to stay in front of potential public policy topics as we head into the 2023 legislative session. From these engagements, we are not anticipating any legislation directed at Colorado's longstanding tort reform.

The Colorado General Assembly is slated to convene for 120 days beginning on January 9, 2023 and adjourn on May 6, 2023. As always, COPIC will continue to monitor legislative activities with our partners at the Colorado Medical Society and Colorado Hospital Association.

To learn more about COPIC's legislative and policy engagement efforts, contact Logan Dunning, Manager of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6061 or ldunning@copic.com. For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit our Legislative Action Center.

THE COPIC POINTS PROGRAM

ENHANCE YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE WHILE REDUCING YOUR PREMIUM

The COPIC Points Program is one of the ways we partner with insureds to offer more than just traditional coverage. Our team works closely to identify educational resources that address issues relevant to your medical practice, which then allows us to offer customized support.

- Participation in the COPIC Points Program allows you to earn CME/CNE credit along with “points” that apply toward an annual premium discount of 10%.
- Attaining the 3 COPIC points needed for the discount can usually be completed in as little as three hours; there are also many options for COPIC to present at your practice or facility.
- Eligible physicians, allied health professionals/advanced practice providers, and insured facilities can participate in the program; new COPIC insureds receive the discount in their first year, but need to participate in subsequent years.

PLEASE NOTE: THE ANNUAL CYCLE FOR COPIC POINTS HAS CHANGED AND IS NOW NOVEMBER THROUGH OCTOBER; THE NEXT ANNUAL CYCLE TO EARN COPIC POINTS IS FROM 11/1/22 THROUGH 10/31/23.

Examples of the opportunities to earn COPIC points include:

- **Complete an on-demand course on your own schedule**—Choose from 40+ courses that cover topics such as specialty-specific trends, managing unanticipated outcomes, patient communications, and interactive case studies. *Access on-demand courses at www.callcopic.com/education*
- **Participate in one of our scheduled seminars**—COPIC hosts virtual and in-person seminars throughout the year that range from legal topics (minors and risk, patient access to medical records, HIPAA) to medical specialty roundtables. *Information about upcoming seminars can also be found at www.callcopic.com/education*
- **Complete an on-site, virtual, or self-assessment to identify high-risk areas in your practice or facility**—Managed by specially trained nurses, COPIC’s Practice Quality Reviews, Facility Assessments, and Self Assessments offer an objective review based on evidence-based guidelines, and results help you improve your systems and address preventable risks.
- **Attend one of COPIC’s annual conferences**—Each year, we host our Symposium (physician/practice-focused) and Forum (facility-focused only facility/hospital policies qualify for points), which are opportunities to hear from nationally-recognized experts and COPIC team members on timely health care topics. *The 2023 Symposium will be held April 19-21, and the 2023 Forum will be held October 23-25.*
- **Participate in a 3Rs Program training**—COPIC’s industry-leading 3Rs Program helps physicians communicate with patients after an adverse outcome to address their needs, preserve the relationship, and prevent litigation. We offer a training that focuses on 3Rs disclosure principles and how to effectively utilize the program. *Contact Carmenlita Byrd for training information at cbyrd@copic.com or (720) 858-6131.*
- **Complete 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 (pre-approval is required).
- **Service Plans for Systems and Large Groups**—For certain systems and large groups that meet criteria for professional review structures, organization for quality improvement, and a scheduled COPIC educational program curriculum, we offer a streamlined process to administer points.





THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

PREPARING FOR THE 2023 SESSION

A critical piece of COPIC's legislative advocacy is meeting with our partners as well as state-level candidates to discuss our priority of improving medicine so that patients have access to safe, quality care. These meetings provide opportunities to better understand health care policy issues, engage in thoughtful discussions, and extend COPIC's resources to inform others. In addition, our Public Affairs team strives to offer informed, nonpartisan insight that considers both the challenges of medical providers and the concerns of patients.

A Focus on Non-Economic Damage Caps

Over the past two years, COPIC's focus, along with our partners, has primarily been on advancing a hard cap on non-economic damages in medical liability cases. Currently in Iowa, there is no cap on total damages including monetary losses such as past and future medical expenses, loss of past and future earnings, loss of use of property, costs of repair or replacement, and loss of employment or business opportunities. There is a \$250,000 "soft cap" on non-economic damages.

It has been COPIC's experience in states that do have a hard cap on non-economic damages, that the cost we must incur on our insured health care providers has stabilized and allowed predictability in a very unpredictable expense industry. Caps have also helped with the recruitment and retention of health care providers in the 28 states that have them, especially those professionals in high-risk specialties such as obstetrics and gynecology. While the effort has not been successful to date due to just a few votes, we are encouraged by Governor Kim Reynolds' commitment to the issue and the election results.

The Iowa Medical Society and Iowa Hospital Association have been working hard this election year to

educate candidates and incumbents on the importance of passing a cap on non-economic damage caps in medical liability cases. This important work provides us a new opportunity to pass legislation in 2023. For all of these reasons, we continue to focus our support toward the passages of this important legislation.

Election Season 2022

This year, Iowa's ticket of legislative incumbents and new candidates hit the campaign trail to make their case to constituents about why they are the right person to serve Iowa at the legislature in 2023.

Why does this matter? The candidates who prevailed in the elections will go on to introduce, debate, and vote on policy that impacts the delivery of medicine in Iowa.

Election Results Breakdown

Iowa entered the 2022 elections with the Republicans holding a majority in the State Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Election results show that Iowa's State Senate and House of Representatives will remain in Republican control. The Iowa State Senate saw the Republicans pick up two seats, expanding their majority to 34 (R) to 16 (D). The Iowa House

will remain Republican-controlled in 2023 with a 64 (R) to 36 (D) majority. Incumbent Republican Governor Kim Reynolds won her election bid and will serve for the next four years.

Looking Ahead

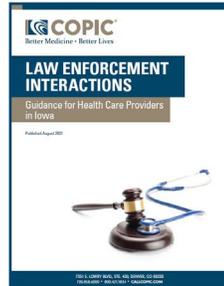
COPIC's Public Affairs team continues to engage with our health care partners to stay in front of potential public policy topics as we head into the 2023 legislative session. From these engagements, our focus will be to continue to support legislation directed at stabilizing Iowa's tort environment. The Iowa Legislature is slated to convene on January 9, 2023. As always, COPIC will continue to monitor legislative activities with our colleagues at the Iowa Medical Society.

To learn more about COPIC's legislative and policy engagement efforts, contact Logan Dunning, Manager of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6061 or ldunning@copic.com. For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit our Legislative Action Center.

IOWA RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON COPIC'S WEBSITE

>>Law Enforcement Interactions

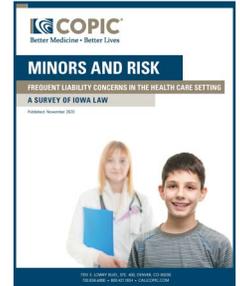
Health care providers may experience interactions with law enforcement personnel that create uncertainty around their responsibilities to patients, including the duty to protect patients' privacy. Law enforcement personnel are tasked with ensuring public safety and conducting criminal investigations. 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

HAVE YOU LISTENED TO THE PODCAST?



Within Normal Limits is our podcast that offers valuable insight through conversations with COPIC's team of experts and recognized physician leaders.

Each episode tackles a timely topic with a focus on case study reviews, in-depth discussions, and practical guidance about avoiding common risks and best practices to improve patient care. There are now more than 30 episodes and some recent highlights include:

- Treating Family, Friends, and Staff
- The Ongoing Challenge of Chest Pain in Patients
- Navigating Conversations with Patients About Guns

Within Normal Limits is available on popular platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify. You can also go to www.callcopic.com/wnlpodcast for more information. New episodes are posted throughout the year, so be sure to subscribe enjoy the podcast.

SAVE THE DATE 2023 SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars! Next year's Symposium will be at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska on April 19-21, 2023. Registration and information will be sent out prior to the event.



THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

PREPARING FOR THE 2023 SESSION

A critical piece of COPIC’s legislative advocacy is meeting with our partners as well as state-level candidates to discuss our priority of improving medicine so that patients have access to safe, quality care. These meetings provide opportunities to better understand health care policy issues, engage in thoughtful discussions, and extend COPIC’s resources to inform others. In addition, our Public Affairs team strives to offer informed, nonpartisan insight that considers both the challenges of medical providers and the concerns of patients.

COPIC’s Support for Legislators

Through candidate meetings and coordination with our partners, COPIC’s team identifies those individuals who share our legislative priorities. To demonstrate support of their run for the Unicameral, COPIC financially contributes directly to their campaigns.

Election Season 2022

This year, Nebraska’s ticket of legislative incumbents and new candidates hit the campaign trail to make their case to constituents about why they are the right person to serve Nebraska at the Unicameral in 2023.

Why does this matter? The candidates who prevailed in the elections will go on to introduce, debate, and vote on policy that impacts the delivery of medicine in Nebraska.

Election Results Breakdown

COPIC is encouraged that many of the incumbents we support were re-elected to the legislature in addition to many new candidates that COPIC met with early in their candidacy to establish positive relationships. We remain optimistic that these legislators share our goal of improving access to safe, quality health care delivery.

While technically the legislative body is nonpartisan in Nebraska, party affiliations are well known. The Nebraska Unicameral entered the 2022 election season with the Republicans holding a majority in the legislature—32 seats to 17.

At the time of publication, election results show that the Nebraska legislature will remain in Republican control. Although the final partisan breakdown is still being determined, Nebraska Republicans are aiming for a 33-seat majority in order to overcome any attempts to filibuster legislation. A filibuster-proof majority, if achieved, could have a significant impact on policy discourse in 2023.

Gubernatorial candidates Jim Pillen (R) and Carol Blood (D) faced off, with Pillen prevailing. Governor Pillen will serve for the next four years.

Looking Ahead

COPIC’s Public Affairs team continues to engage with our health care partners to stay in front of potential public policy topics as we head into the 2023 legislative session. From these engagements, our focus will be to support legislation directed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Excess Liability Fund.

Through conversations and meetings with our health care partners in Nebraska, COPIC’s Public Affairs team has identified a handful of potential topics that we expect to be at the forefront of the 2023 legislative session.

- Long-term sustainability of Nebraska’s Excess Liability Fund
- Access to abortion services
- Optometry scope of practice relating to SLT procedures
- Licensure of anesthesiologist assistants
- Telehealth payment parity.

The Nebraska Unicameral is slated to convene on January 4, 2023 and adjourn on April 18, 2023. As always, COPIC will continue to monitor legislative activities with our partners at the Nebraska Medical Association.

To learn more about COPIC’s legislative and policy engagement efforts, contact Logan Dunning, Manager of Public Affairs, at (720) 858-6061 or ldunning@copic.com. For information on legislation or to find your elected officials, visit our Legislative Action Center.

2022 COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD: **DR. KEVIN REICHMUTH**



COPIC and the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) are proud to announce that Dr. Kevin Reichmuth, a pulmonologist in Lincoln, was chosen as the 2022 recipient of COPIC's Humanitarian Award. He is recognized for his commitment to making a difference in health care and was presented with the award at the NMA's annual meeting in September.

Dr. Reichmuth is a native of Columbus, Nebraska, and is passionate about health care advocacy and education. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided bedside clinic care to hundreds of patients impacted by the virus and volunteered as a medical expert to the local health department as well as the State Department of Public Health. Dr. Reichmuth provided community status updates to local physicians during weekly educational meetings and always volunteered to be interviewed by the media regarding the pandemic, offering health care advice based on his expertise.

Dr. Reichmuth received his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and completed his residency and fellowship in Internal Medicine,

Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics. He is board certified in all four specialties. He is currently the Medical Director of the Bryan Medical Center Sleep Center and the Columbus Community Hospital Sleep Laboratory, and also serves as the Tabitha Hospice Medical Director. In addition, Dr. Reichmuth is a Colonel in the Nebraska Army National Guard and has served for over 30 years with multiple deployments.

Dr. Reichmuth and his partners were one of the first Lincoln area clinics to volunteer to participate in the Lancaster County Medical Foundation's Medical Assistance program, which provides access to health care for approximately 1,500 uninsured individuals each year.

The COPIC Humanitarian Award was established in 2001 in honor Harold "Hal" E. Williamson. The annual award recognizes a physician going above the call of duty in the Nebraska health care community and provides a \$10,000 donation to be given to the health-related nonprofit of the recipient's choice. Dr. Reichmuth chose to donate the \$10,000 to the Lancaster County Medical Foundation's Medical Assistance Program.



Dr. Gerald Zarlengo, COPIC CEO, presenting Dr. Kevin Reichmuth the COPIC Humanitarian Award at the September NMA Annual Meeting.

**SAVE THE
DATE
2023
SYMPOSIUM**



Mark your calendars! Next year's Symposium will be at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE on April 19-21, 2023. Registration and information will be sent out prior to the event.