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## RIMS NOTES: News You Can Use

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### RIMS NOTES: NEWS YOU CAN USE

This issue sponsored by

Welcome to the current issue of *RIMS Notes*, your concise, bi-weekly bulletin to keep RIMS members up to date on RIMS, the legislature, and highlights of our advocacy efforts.

**Volume 1 - Number 21**

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**What's New**

On October 14 CMS published its Final Rule for implementing MACRA. All physicians must take careful note of the momentous changes in how Medicare will pay starting in little more than 2 months. On October 20, AMA released two new documents to help physicians understand the Final Rule and what it means for their practices. AMA's new [chart](#) provides an outline, while AMA's new [summary document](#) provides detail of MACRA. The Final Rule incorporates a number of improvements that AMA fought for to ease the transition for doctors.

**Membership Activities**

The Medical Society's new website debuted September 22, 2016. The URL is unchanged: [www.rimed.org](#), but everything else has been rebuilt from the ground up in fulfillment of strategic planning and consulting done last winter. You will like what you see.

December 1 Back by popular demand! [Paint and Wine](#) at the Muse Paint Bar, 117 North Main Street, Providence. Register through the [Member Portal](#) on RIMS' website. Unleash your inner artist.

**Keeping You Posted: Opioids**

**New Prescription Limits are in Effect!** By state law effective June 28, 2016, initial opioid prescriptions for outpatient adults shall entail no more than 30 morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) or 20 total dosages. Review the impact of these important new laws [here](#).

**Co-prescribing** FDA now requires strong warnings for combined use of opioid analgesics, prescription opioid cough products, and benzodiazepines. The action is part of a national effort led by Rhode Island Director of Health, Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, to highlight the dangers of co-prescribing.

**Surgeon General to physicians: Take the pledge!** Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, calls on America's doctors to [Turn the Tide](#) on the opioid crisis. Read his [letter](#). Take the pledge.

**This Date In History - 23 Years Ago**

October 21 is National Mammography Day, and October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. President Bill Clinton designated the third Friday of October as Mammography Day in 1993.

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### RIMS NOTES

is published electronically on alternate Fridays.

Contact Sarah if you've missed an issue, [sstevens@rimed.org](mailto:sstevens@rimed.org).

## Working for You: RIMS advocacy activities



RI-ACEP President **Otis Warren, MD**, models PPE donated from the public. RIMS is serving as a collection and distribution center for this effort initiated by RI-ACEP.

### April 1, Wednesday

Blue Cross conference call regarding telemedicine coverage issues  
Department of Health providers conference call regarding clinical issues

### April 2, Thursday

American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) webinar *COVID-19: The Legislative Response* (via teleconference)

### April 3, Friday

Blue Cross conference call regarding telemedicine coverage issues  
Conference call with American Nurses Association-RI, RI Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Hospital Association of RI regarding provider issues

### April 4, Saturday

RIMS goes live as a collection site for donated PPE in collaboration with the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

### April 6, Monday

AMA federal legislation update call  
RIMS Council: Christine Brousseau, MD, MPH, President; James McDonald, MD, MPH, Medical Director RI Department of Health, guest (via teleconference)

### April 7, Tuesday

RIMS Physician Health Committee: Herbert Rakatansky, MD, Chair (via teleconference)

### April 8, Wednesday

Governor's Overdose Opioid Overdose Intervention and Prevention Task Force (via teleconference)  
RIMS goes live as the collection site for donated iPads as a partner in "COVID Connectors," an action initiated by Rory Merritt, MD, and Kaya Suner, to enable isolated patients to maintain contact with loved ones

### April 9, Thursday

AMA conference call with state medical societies, Patrice Harris, MD, MPH, AMA President

### April 10, Friday

*RIMS Notes* production  
Governor Raimondo issues Executive Order 20-21 conferring liability immunity upon health care professionals and institutions during the emergency. The Governor acted in response to RIMS' March 30 call for such immunity

### April 14, Tuesday

Governor's Overdose Task Force Harm Reduction Working Group (via teleconference)  
Conference call with U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and staff: Peter A. Hollmann, MD, Chair of the Board; Christine Brousseau, MD, MPH, President; Catherine A. Cummings, MD, President-elect; Michael Migliori, MD, Chair, Public Laws Committee; and staff

### April 15, Wednesday

Department of Health Primary Care Provider Advisory Committee (via teleconference)

### April 16, Thursday

American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) webinar *COVID-19: Legislative Recommendations to Curb the Coming Legislative Surge* (via teleconference)  
Call with state medical society public health leads – COVID-19 (via teleconference)

### April 17, Friday

AMA federal legislation update call  
World Diabetes Day (WDD) planning meeting – Department of Health (DOH)  
Call with Department of Health (DOH) regarding federal grant application for dementia funding

### April 18, Saturday

Bi-Annual *11th Hour CME Event*, (via webinar)

### April 21, Tuesday

American Medical Association (AMA) Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) Executive Committee Conference Call

### April 22, Wednesday

RI Medical Repertory Charter School Board of Directors Call: Bradley Collins, MD, RIMS Staff

### April 24, Friday

*RIMS Notes* production  
World Diabetes Day (WDD) planning meeting – Department of Health (DOH)

### April 28, Tuesday

Conference call with Congressman Cicilline and staff: Peter A. Hollmann, MD, Chair of the Board; Christine Brousseau, MD, MPH, President; Catherine A. Cummings, MD, President-elect; Michael Migliori, MD, Chair, Public Laws Committee; and staff

### April 30, Thursday

Health Professional Loan Repayment Board/Department of Health: Steve DeToy, Board Member (via teleconference)  
New England Delegation (NED) to the American Medical Association (AMA) conference call: Peter Hollmann, MD, Chair



## RIMS CORPORATE AFFILIATES

The Rhode Island Medical Society continues to drive forward into the future with the implementation of various new programs. As such, RIMS is expanding its Affinity Program to allow for more of our colleagues in health-care and related business to work with our membership. RIMS thanks these participants for their support of our membership.

Contact Marc Bialek for more information: 401-331-3207 or [mbialek@rimed.org](mailto:mbialek@rimed.org)



[www.nhpri.org](http://www.nhpri.org)

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is a non-profit HMO founded in 1993 in partnership with Rhode Island's Community Health Centers. Serving over 185,000 members, Neighborhood has doubled in membership, revenue and staff since November 2013. In January 2014, Neighborhood extended its service, benefits and value through the HealthSource RI health insurance exchange, serving 49% the RI exchange market. Neighborhood has been rated by National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as one of the Top 10 Medicaid health plans in America, every year since ratings began twelve years ago.

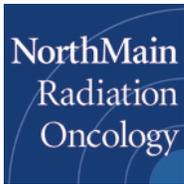


[www.ripccpc.com](http://www.ripccpc.com)

RIPCPC is an independent practice association (IPA) of primary care physicians located throughout the state of Rhode Island. The IPA, originally formed in 1994, represent 150 physicians from Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. RIPCPC also has an affiliation with over 200 specialty-care member physicians. Our PCP's act as primary care providers for over 340,000 patients throughout the state of Rhode Island. The IPA was formed to provide a venue for the smaller independent practices to work together with the ultimate goal of improving quality of care for our patients.



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