TMA
Tennessee Medical Association



2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO CARE

INSURANCE REFORM

An insurer should not be permitted to reduce payment for a properly submitted service based solely on an automated determination. Determinations should be based on the patient's medical record and an appropriate clinical review. TMA will introduce a bill to stop the practice of downcoding without a review of the medical record.

TENNCARE PAYMENT REFORM

TennCare ensures access to care for Tennessee's most vulnerable, but current reimbursement rates fall well below the cost of providing care and make it financially difficult for physicians to participate. This is especially problematic in rural communities. TMA is seeking a long-term solution to improve reimbursement rates to keep practice doors open and protect patient access.

PROTECTING PHYSICIAN LED CARE

All Tennesseans regardless of zip code deserve care led by a physician. It is essential that the most highly trained member of the healthcare team- the physician- is leading the team. TMA will fight for team-based care that allows Tennessee to use the skills of its entire health care workforce while preserving physician involvement in diagnosis and treatment.

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TMA™ Tennessee Medical Association

2026

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

INSURANCE PAYMENT REFORM

Health insurance entities routinely deny claims for reimbursement when patient care has already been rendered. Often the reasons are not transparent or are arbitrarily decided. Through a comprehensive bill, TMA will look to address several problematic payment practices to improve insurer transparency and efficiency in claims processing.

PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT OF AI

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare is increasing rapidly, but AI-generated medical recommendations can sometimes be inaccurate or incomplete. TMA will work to ensure AI integration in healthcare prioritizes patient safety, clinical accuracy, physician involvement and informed patient consent to maintain high standards of medical care.

TENNCARE PAYMENT REFORM

TennCare ensures access to care for Tennessee's most vulnerable, but current reimbursement rates fall well below the cost of providing care and make it financially difficult for physicians to participate. TMA is seeking long-term solutions to improve reimbursement rates to encourage robust physician participation and improved network adequacy.

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2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TENNCARE PROVIDER REMEDY PLAN

TennCare exists as a safety net program to protect our most vulnerable citizens, yet current reimbursement rates make it difficult for physicians and medical practices to financially afford to participate. TMA will work to protect access to TennCare for the publicly-insured by improving provider rates and network adequacy.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NOTICE

In 2022, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation requiring both health care providers and health plans to notify patients when further information is needed to obtain a prior authorization approval. The law not only confuses patients, but it creates unnecessary administrative burden for the entity that has not requested anything— most often the physician. TMA will amend the current statute to clarify that only the entity requesting additional information be responsible for notifying the patient.

LETHAL FETAL ANOMALIES

A 2024 TMA survey showed that nearly 83% of physician respondents feel the Human Life Protection Act does not offer sufficient legal protections to lawfully terminate pregnancies to save the life or prevent irreversible impairment of major bodily function of the mother. TMA will work to further clarify the law by codifying specific situations in which termination may be medically necessary, such as fetal anomalies that are incompatible with life outside the womb.

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