The Recognized Voice of California Physicians

CMA and its county medical societies have represented California's physicians for 160 years as the recognized voice of the house of medicine. CMA also partners regularly with the specialty societies of California, and together we stand taller, our combined voices stronger, fighting for the future of medicine and our noble profession.

Key Victories and Priorities

A Commitment to Mental Health: CMA has for years strongly urged Congress to strengthen its commitment to mental health services, including screening, prevention and treatment. CMA also regularly adopts policy supporting increased funding for mental health services across all settings.

Mental Health Care in Underrepresented Populations: CMA has strong policy in support of public health campaigns and partnerships that provide outreach and education on culturally-sensitive approaches to mental health care delivery.

Physician Wellness: CMA joined with the California Society of Addiction Medicine and the California Psychiatric Association to establish California Public Protection and Physician Health, Inc., dedicated to providing services for physicians with physical, mental health or addiction issues that, if left untreated, could compromise their ability to safely practice medicine. CMA has also for years run the Physicians’ and Dentists’ Confidential Assistance Line, a service for physicians, dentists and their family members who are seeking help with problems of alcoholism, drug dependence or mental illness.

Improving Dementia Care: CMA is a member of the California Partnership to Improve Dementia Care, dedicated to decreasing the use

"CMA gives me a sense that I am not alone in the fight to protect my patients and ensure that they got the best and highest quality of care. It gives me an opportunity to stand with others."

C. Freeman, M.D., Psychiatrist, Member Since 2006
of antipsychotic medications in nursing home residents and enhancing the use of non-pharmacologic approaches and person-centered dementia care practices.

**Coordinated Mental Health Care:** CMA supports a multi-disciplinary model of integrated care for mental health patients, including increased collaboration with primary care physician providers to better coordinate health care delivery.

**Medical Student Wellness:** The CMA Foundation recently awarded a grant to medical students at the University of California, Irvine and the University of California, San Francisco to help fund the development of a mobile app for the self-management of depression, anxiety and stress in medical students.

**Physician Workforce:** We are committed to expanding funding for graduate medical education (GME) to ensure that there are enough residency slots to train physicians in regions where health care services are needed most. CMA was able to secure $100 million in the 2016-2017 state budget to expand the Song-Brown Program to create more residency slots in California.

**Medical School Debt:** CMA sponsored legislation to create the Steven M. Thompson Loan Repayment Program, which provides physicians with up to $105,000 to repay educational loans in exchange for a three-year service commitment in a medically underserved area of the state. CMA has worked closely with the selection committee to ensure that psychiatrists receive equal consideration for awards.

**Medi-Cal Funding:** CMA is a founding member of the “We Care for California” coalition, working to help state leaders understand how the severe underfunding of Medi-Cal harms millions of children, seniors in nursing homes, pregnant women and people with disabilities, all of whom have difficulty getting access to the health care they need because of low Medi-Cal rates.

**Scope of Practice:** Every year, CMA defeats attempts to expand non-physicians’ scope of practice. CMA strongly believes allowing practitioners to perform procedures they aren’t trained to do can only lead to unpredictable outcomes, higher costs and greater fragmentation of care.

There are **825** psychiatrist members of CMA.

**WON’T YOU JOIN THEM?**

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**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

- CMA and its county medical societies — representing 41,000 physicians, residents and medical students — influence public policy at the state and federal levels.
- Members have free access to valuable professional resources, including nearly 5,000 pages of legal information related to the practice of medicine in CMA's online health law library.
- Our extensive network of benefit partners makes it so that your membership can easily pay for itself.
- CMA is only a phone call away! Our live-person call center is available Mon-Fri during business hours at (800) 786-4262.

**FOR MORE ABOUT CMA AND ITS PROGRAMS, VISIT WWW.CMANET.ORG.**

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