

Notes

MEDICAL MUTUAL
Liability Insurance Society of Maryland

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

October 2021

Dear MEDICAL MUTUAL Member:

Many, many changes have occurred over the last 18 months to the practice of medicine as well as to our daily lives. Every day, we wake up and try to be the best Physicians we can be. Our experience, dedication, education, and passion drive the decisions we make and ultimately forge the relationships with our patients and our staff.

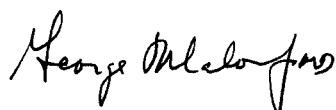
We take seriously the endurance of our character. As Doctors with a vested interest in MEDICAL MUTUAL, we secure the most reliable defense of our professional integrity and our medical decisions against allegations of medical malpractice. Regardless of the political climate, the latest headlines in health news, or the trends in the professional liability insurance market, MEDICAL MUTUAL remains committed to providing you access to only the best attorneys, a stellar claims management team, and compassionate customer service. All constant since MEDICAL MUTUAL's inception in 1975 as a Doctor-owned and directed insurance company.

Although rates are subject to the legal climate and therefore can vary from year to year, your 2022 rate will remain the same as your 2021 rate. I am also pleased to announce that the MEDICAL MUTUAL Board of Directors has approved a 20% Renewal Dividend credit for 2022. In addition, a 10% allocation will be made to each eligible participant's *Mutual Advantage Plan* (MAP) account.

As we start to think about the coming year, be aware that cyberattacks are becoming more prevalent and sophisticated, especially within the medical community. Practice Managers are critical in this fight against cybercrime. That's why I'm glad that so many of you have been supportive of registering them for our Practice Manager Toolbox, a free, online resource featuring an entire section on cybersecurity.

You already have some "first aid" cyber liability protection in MedGuard, included in your professional liability policy with MEDICAL MUTUAL. We also offer separate, more robust cyber protection with *e-dataRESPONSE+*. Depending on your evaluation of cyberthreats to your practice, I encourage you to consider adding this product to increase your protection.

Sincerely,



George S. Malouf, Jr., M.D., FACS
Chair of the Board

HEADLINES

Rates and Renewal Dividend Announced
MEDICAL MUTUAL declares rates unchanged for 2022 and a 20% Renewal Dividend.

Mutual Advantage Plan 2022 Allocation Declared
Eligible Participants will receive a 10% allocation to their MAP accounts upon 2022 renewal.

Anti-Kickback, Stark Laws Addressed on Nov. 3
Our live RM webinar features presenters John Sly, Esq., and Kem Tolliver.

e-dataRESPONSE+ Coverage Is Critical for Your Practice
Cyber-attacks have affected millions of patient records. Ask how to increase coverage.

Marking More Than 20 Years of Accreditation
MEDICAL MUTUAL risk management education is reaccredited for four years.

Use Our Online Payment System
Due to looming USPS mail delays, we encourage online bill pay.

Rates Remain the Same for 2022

MEDICAL MUTUAL has announced that rates will be unchanged for 2022. This decision is based on a stability in claims frequency. In addition, the Board of Directors has approved a 20% Renewal Dividend credit for 2022. The dividend credit will show on your invoice for 2022, to be mailed on November 1, 2021. To receive the credit, you must have a MEDICAL MUTUAL policy that is renewing in 2022. If you have questions concerning your policy or the Renewal Dividend, please contact your Producer or call our Customer Service Department at 410-785-0050 or 800-492-0193.



Robust Cyber Security for Your Practice Is Critical in This Era of Super Hackers

Hackers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in how they gain access to the extensive amount of personal data contained in patient records. In fact, according to a recent article in *Medical Economics*, it is estimated that, in 2020, ransomware attacks alone affected more than 600 separate health care institutions and more than 18 million individual patient records (a 470% increase from 2019).¹

Although the *e-dataRESPONSE* coverage included in MedGuard provides coverage for a variety of regulatory and legal obligations related to the breach of electronic or paper records, *e-dataRESPONSE+* is a standalone cyber policy for groups wanting higher coverage limits (up to \$1,000,000). This product covers loss of money or securities resulting from financial fraud, breach response expenses, privacy and security liability, reputational harm, and more. Visit mmlis.com/content/e-data-response-plus for details about this robust cyber coverage option that could prove especially valuable in this era of super hackers.

Marking More Than 20 Years of Accreditation

MEDICAL MUTUAL has been reaccredited for another four years through the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). We have continuously maintained this accreditation since 2001, offering Insureds relevant risk management courses that count toward their CME credits. Insureds can take advantage of this offering by registering for home study, webinars, and online courses. Courses are scheduled annually from approximately March through September. Look for details about our 2022 risk management education program at mmlis.com.



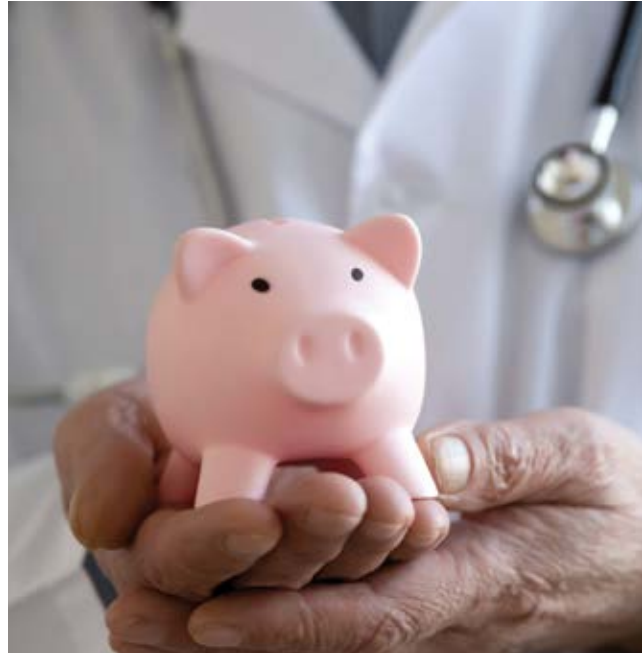
Avoid USPS Delays: Utilize Our Online Payment System

In early October, the U.S. Postal Service will be implementing new service standards that will result in longer first-class mail delivery times and cuts to post office hours. Insureds are therefore encouraged to utilize our online payment system or enroll in our automatic payment plan. For more information about our online billing services, visit mmlis.com/content/premium-billing or call 410-785-0050 or 800-492-0193. While taking advantage of this convenient online service, we recommend that you make it your practice to refer often to our web site for resources and relevant news alerts.

¹ <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/the-most-common-cybersecurity-mistakes-doctors-make>

Additional *Mutual Advantage Plan* Allocation for 2022 Announced

The MEDICAL MUTUAL Board of Directors is pleased to announce an additional *Mutual Advantage Plan* allocation for 2022 of 10% of each eligible Participant's base premium (including part-time, suspension and government credits) per the underwriting characteristics. Participants must complete their 2022 renewal in order to receive this allocation. This allocation is in continued recognition of the commitment of our Policyholders to the long-term success and stability of the Company and to the practice of quality medicine. The *Mutual Advantage Plan*, one of MEDICAL MUTUAL's most popular Policyholder benefits, was introduced in 2016. To date, millions of dollars have been distributed to hundreds of Doctors who have experienced a qualifying event (qualified retirement, disability or death). For additional information on the *Mutual Advantage Plan*, visit mmlis.com/map



MedGuard



Peace of Mind for Maryland Doctors

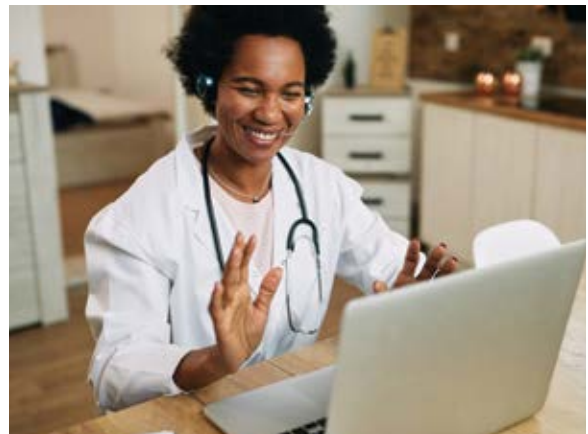


Additional Peace of Mind for Doctors

We find that many Physicians are not aware that they have MedGuard as a MEDICAL MUTUAL Insured. MedGuard helps defend against a wide variety of administrative and judicial disciplinary proceedings. Insureds also are covered in the event of a cyber breach, RAC audit, OSHA investigation, and more. For increased cyber protection, you can purchase a \$100,000 buy-up option. This includes all the cyber coverages in MedGuard plus privacy and security liability, cybercrime, and multimedia liability. For more information, visit mmlis.com/content/medguard

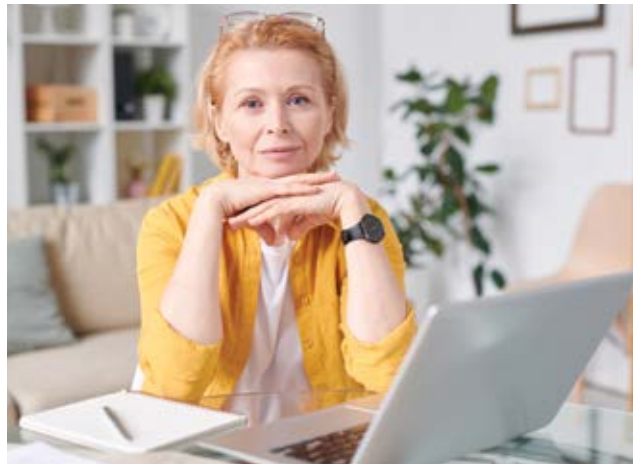
Stay Abreast of Telehealth Regulations

In September, the Maryland Department of Health launched a pilot program aimed to increase access to telemental health services, including behavioral health care and substance use disorder treatment. Local behavioral health authorities have selected providers who will receive the funds to purchase HIPAA-compliant telehealth devices. Regardless of your practice's specialty or involvement in this pilot program, we recommend that you regularly check MEDICAL MUTUAL's telemedicine resources page at mmlis.com/content/telemedicine-covid. Here we've aggregated the latest information from MedChi, the Maryland Board of Physicians, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and others.



Updates to Anti-Kickback, Stark Laws

On Nov. 3 from noon to 1:30 p.m., the MEDICAL MUTUAL Risk Management team will host a new, live webinar for those Practice Managers who have signed up for the Practice Manager Toolbox (PMT). Insured Physicians whose Practice Managers have registered for the PMT may also attend. John Sly, Esq. and Kem Tolliver, Practice Management Consultant, will present on recent updates to Anti-Kickback and Stark Laws. Please remind your Practice Managers to look for an email from us with more information about the program and registration instructions. They can also call the Risk Management Department at 410-785-0050, or toll free at 800-492-0193.



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ISSUE

- **2022 Rates Unchanged**
- **20% Renewal Dividend Announced for 2022**
- ***Mutual Advantage Plan 2022 Allocation Is 10%***
- **Webinar on Nov. 3 Addresses Anti-Kickback, Stark Laws**
- **MEDICAL MUTUAL Reaccredited for Another Four Years**
- ***e-dataRESPONSE+* Is Critical in Age of Super Hackers**

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