



South Carolina's HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

2025 Winter CME Conference Update

A promotional banner for the 2025 Winter CME Conference. The banner features a background image of a river with a dam and a bridge, with a building in the background. On the left, there is a logo for the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society. The text on the banner includes "Register Now!" in a large, cursive font, "2025 WINTER CME CONFERENCE" in a bold, sans-serif font, "FEBRUARY 14 – 16, 2025" in a bold, sans-serif font, and "AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT GREENVILLE" in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below this, there is a paragraph of text describing the conference benefits, and a line of text stating "Co-Sponsored by VCOM - Carolinas". At the bottom, it says "EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS JAN. 17 | WWW.SCDOS.ORG".

Register Now!

2025 WINTER CME CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 14 – 16, 2025
AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT GREENVILLE

Earn your 20 1-A CME credits for as low as \$495, take advantage of membership discounts, network with colleagues, and enjoy the Saturday Evening Reception and Silent Auction. Optional activities include celebrating Valentine's Day with an Après Ski Lodge pop-up experience and a performance of Hamilton at The Peace Center.

Co-Sponsored by VCOM - Carolinas

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS JAN. 17 | WWW.SCDOS.ORG

SCOMS will hold its [2025 Winter CME Conference](#) on February 14-16 at the [AC Hotel in downtown Greenville, SC.](#)

Here are the updates you need to know:

- Attendees can earn up to 21.25 1-A CME credits for as low as \$495! **Early bird registration ends January 17.**
- [Register Today!](#)
- [View the conference schedule.](#)
- The AC Hotel has a block of rooms available for \$199 per night. [Make your reservations](#) by January 24.
- Book your Valentine's Day Celebration with an Après Ski Lodge Experience in [The Press Room](#) where guests will relax by the fireplace, sip handcrafted cocktails, and enjoy a decadent winter dinner on Friday evening. Space is limited and you may choose from two seatings – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. or 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person (age 21+).
- Take in a performance of [Hamilton at The Peace Center](#) on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Ticket options range from \$100 to \$200 per person and are available on a first-come basis with limit of 4 tickets per conference attendee.

- [SCOMS Silent Auction](#) will offer a fantastic selection of items with funds raised supporting the Scholarship Program. Bid early, bid often!
- [Deadline Extended for Poster Presentations!](#) Residents, Fellows and Students may submit work for the Poster Presentations until **5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18.**



**Great appreciation is extended to the following
conference sponsors and exhibitors:**



Call for Submissions



CALL FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS SCOMS 2025 WINTER CME CONFERENCE

SCOMS invites you to submit case reports, original research, and QI projects. **Deadline Extended to Wednesday, Dec. 18.**



Fifteen (15) projects will be selected for inclusion at the **2025 SCOMS Winter Conference – Feb. 14-16 at the AC Hotel in downtown Greenville.**

All 15 semi-finalists will receive **free conference registration.**

Visit <https://www.scdos.org/2025-winter-cme-conference> for more information.

The [South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society](#) (SCOMS) is accepting posters for presentation at the **2025 SCOMS Winter CME Conference** at the [AC Hotel By Marriott Greenville in Greenville, SC](#). This event will take place from February 14-16, 2025. Case reports, original research, and Quality Improvement (QI) projects are eligible for submission. **Fifteen (15) presentations will be accepted for the conference.**

This is an opportunity to share your case study or in-progress scholarly research or improvement project and receive feedback from professionals in the field. This is an excellent opportunity to revise and enhance your work for presentation at other meetings.

[Click here to download Poster Template](#)

Submissions are due to tammy@scdos.org by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

What DOs Should Know About the Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

On Nov. 1, 2024, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) issued the CY2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule, which includes updates to physician payment policies, the Quality Payment Program (QPP) and Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP).

The AOA has developed an [in-depth guide](#) outlining key changes that could impact physician practices in 2025. Highlights from the AOA's guide include:

- Discussion of the Medicare conversion factor reduction and efforts to mitigate payment cuts in 2025
- Updates to payment for E/M services and advanced primary care that support coordinated, longitudinal care
- Changes to Medicare telehealth policies that support continued payment and access
- Updates related to 90-day global surgical payments
- Changes to the QPP, including Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) scoring changes for 2025

2024 State of Lung Cancer Report

The [American Lung Association](#) recently released its [2024 State of Lung Cancer Report](#), which found South Carolina still does a little better than average at getting patients low-dose CT scans that can help catch it early, but survival in the Palmetto State still lags the U.S. average. In fact, this year's five-year survival rate of 25.5 percent is slightly above than last years of 24.4 percent, but both are below the national average of 28.4 percent, said Danna Thompson, ALA advocacy director for South Carolina. There also are discrepancies in outcomes, with Hispanics among those who are least likely to receive lung cancer treatment, she noted. [Read the story in the Post & Courier.](#)

AOA Physician Services Billing/Coding Hot Tip



When physicians perform an evaluation and management (E/M) service on the same day as a minor procedure, applying modifier -25 is essential to indicate that the E/M is a distinct and separate service. Despite proper coding, many private payers blanket deny these claims, often due to automated algorithms that flag modifier -25 claims for review by a nurse, coder, or physician. These reviewers consider factors like the physician's record of appeals—if a provider seldom appeals denials, it can suggest inappropriate billing, increasing the chance of future denials.

However, a high rate of successful appeals signals appropriate billing and improves the likelihood of claims being overturned and paid. Nearly 60% of these blanket denied claims are ultimately approved

on appeal. Physicians should ensure their documentation clearly supports modifier -25 use and appeal unjustified denials, as not appealing can impact future claims and revenue.

For billing/coding or practice management support, contact [Physician Services](#) or 312-202-8194.

DO Develops Wellness Newsletter for Health Care Professionals

Michael Foti, DO, has collaborated with Mind Split Cafe, a mental health awareness podcast, to develop and distribute a wellness newsletter geared toward medical students, physicians, and other healthcare professionals. The Wellness Wake-Up: Med School Edition newsletter will provide tools and tips for wellness, mindfulness, and everything in between.

The newsletter's [first issue](#) included an inspiring article by Dr. Foti on transforming stress into success. Other topics covered include surviving the “taboos” of medical school, exploring Dr. Foti's latest book, unlocking potential, and tips on thriving in medical school.

Feel free to share this with your members. To subscribe to the Wellness Wake-Up: Med School Edition newsletter or for more information, visit the [Mind Split Cafe website](#).

Time to Renew Your SCOMS Membership?

SCOMS offers multiple membership categories to welcome a variety of individuals who practice in and support the Osteopathic profession.

Membership Category:	Effective July 1, 2024
Physician	\$175 or \$395 for 3 years
Retired	\$140
Military	\$140
Out-of-State Physician	\$90
Associate	\$90
Resident	\$50
Student / Intern	\$30

[Click here](#) to remain a member of the **ONLY** association in SC devoted to improving and promoting public health by the advancement of the science and profession of osteopathic medicine.



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