



South Carolina's HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

Monthly Newsletter

October 2024

Registration is Now Open for the 2025 Winter CME Conference!



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

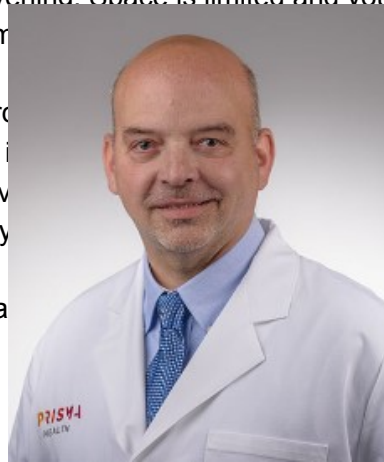
Registration is now open for the [2025 Winter CME Conference](#). Join SCOMS at the [AC Hotel](#) in downtown Greenville on February 14-16. Attendees will earn up to **20 AOA 1-A CME** credits for as low as \$495 and hotel rates are \$199 per night. The schedule and speaker line-up will be announced soon. [Click here to learn more!](#)



Make your plans now to spend Valentine's Day Weekend with SCOMS!

Book your Valentine's Day Celebration with an Amas 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. (Age 21+).

On Saturday
The play
honor, love
biography
profound
and are a



Welcome New Physician Member

Dr. Mark Friedman is the Medical Director of the Brain Health Center at Prisma Health Neurology – [The Peace Center](#) for the Broadway performance of [Hamilton](#). He is board certified in both internal medicine and neurology. He is the son of the late, the late rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for the course of a nation. Based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and Broadway, HAMILTON has had a profound impact on our culture. Dr. Friedman earned his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University and completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Rowan University. Ticket options range from \$100 to \$200 per person with limit of 4 tickets per conference attendee. SOM/Jefferson Health/Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes.

He completed his Neurology Residency at Pennsylvania Hospital and his Neuroendocrinology Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

OMT Certification Grant for Practicing Physicians

The ACOFP Foundation is offering up to \$900 in funding to help cover exam fees and up to \$500 in travel costs for practicing physicians who intend to complete the OMT Performance Exam. [Read more here.](#)

The Dark Side of Pickleball: the pain, the injuries, and the rehab from a casual sport

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country but with that explosive growth has also come a rash of different injuries. For the last three years, Pickleball has seen the highest growth rate of any participation sport in the U.S., increasing by 51.8 percent from 2022 to 2023 and by 223 percent since 2020, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association annual report. [Read the story here.](#)

Government Supports for Physicians Impacted by Hurricane Helene

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it was accepting applications for an advance on Medicare payments for physicians negatively affected by Hurricane Helene. Physicians who need this loan should contact their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) to apply. For information about the MACs, visit <https://www.cms.gov/mac-info>. Please see the announcement below for more details about qualifying for advanced payments and the repayment terms.

CMS to Provide Hurricane Helene Public Health Emergency Accelerated and Advance Payments to Medicare Fee-for-Services Providers and Suppliers

October 2, 2024

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to support providers and suppliers impacted by Hurricane Helene within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster zones, under the President's major disaster declarations. These providers and suppliers may face significant cash flow issues from the unusual circumstances impacting facilities' operations, preventing facilities from submitting claims and receiving Medicare claims payments. As a result of the presidential disaster declaration, and HHS public health emergencies declared in the wake of Hurricane Helene, CMS made available accelerated payments to Medicare Part A providers and advance payments to Medicare Part B suppliers affected by Hurricane Helene beginning October 2, 2024.

Accelerated and Advance payments related to Hurricane Helene may be granted in amounts equal to a percentage of the preceding 90 days of claims payments. These payments will be repaid through automatic recoupment from Medicare claims for a period of 90 days following the issuance of the accelerated or advance payment. A demand will be issued for any remaining balance on day 91 following the issuance of the accelerated or advance payment.

In addition, CMS has made available certain flexibilities related to provider and supplier fee-for-service Medicare debt, as detailed below.

Available Assistance:

Accelerated and Advance Payments to Eligible Providers/Suppliers: Providers and suppliers located in, or furnishing services within, a FEMA designated disaster area established as a result of Hurricane Helene, and who are enrolled in Medicare with an approved provider agreement, are eligible for Hurricane Helene accelerated or advance payments. To request these payments, providers and suppliers must meet the following criteria:

- The provider/ supplier has billed Medicare for claims during the 90 days prior to the aftermath of the natural disaster.
- The provider/supplier is enrolled in the Medicare program and has not been revoked, deactivated, precluded, or excluded by CMS or the HHS Office of the Inspector General. The provider/ supplier does not have any outstanding accelerated and advance payments pending for more than 90 days.
- The provider/supplier does not have any delinquent amounts due under Medicare. Delinquent debt does not include debt that is under an approved Extended Repayment Schedule, where payments have been made in accordance with the schedule.
- The provider/supplier is not on a Medicare payment hold or payment suspension.
- The provider/ supplier must not be under investigation for fraud, waste, or abuse related issues.
- Providers receiving Periodic Interim Payments are not eligible for accelerated payments.

Please note, Hurricane related accelerated and advance payments must be requested for individual providers/suppliers – i.e. unique National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Medicare ID (PTAN) combinations.

Flexibility for Existing Extended Repayment Schedules: For providers and suppliers currently repaying debt under an Extended Repayment Schedule (ERS) established at the maximum 60-month term, the provider/ supplier may restructure their payment schedule for two consecutive monthly payments during the approved period not to exceed a total of 60 months of ERS payments in their schedule without requiring additional financial documentation. For providers/ suppliers currently repaying debt under an Extended Repayment Schedule (ERS) established at less than a 60-month term, those providers/ suppliers may request an additional two months be added to their existing ERS, subject to the 60-month maximum. The additional two months shall be interest only payments, or \$0 payments, with remaining payments adjusted to account for interest that accrues during the period in which the payment schedule was modified.

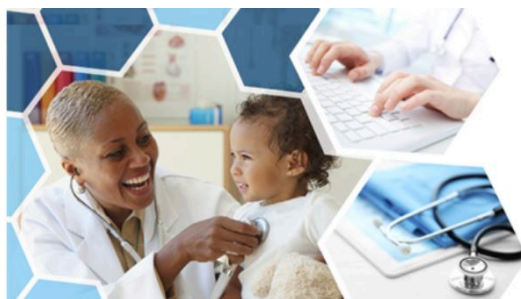
Disrupted Debt Communications: For providers and suppliers that do not receive a letter requiring the repayment of an overpayment resulting from disruptions to the United States Postal Service delivery of first-class mail, providers and suppliers may request affected overpayment demand letters be rescinded and reissued at a time when the availability of mail service has been reestablished.

Medicare providers and suppliers in need of this assistance should contact their assigned Medicare Administrative Contractor.

MAC Contact Information

A list of MACs can be found at our CMS.gov website at: <https://www.cms.gov/mac-info>.

Online CME Courses at Your Fingertips



THE CME CENTER
EDUCATION MADE EASY.

Earn CME credits when it is convenient for you! Visit [The CME Center](#) for a full catalog of lectures that includes hundreds of topics from more than 20 state osteopathic associations. Prices start at just \$20 per credit. This user-friendly platform is accessible 24 hours a day and member registration rates apply making this an affordable and convenient way to earn you CME hours.

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.

| <u>Membership Category:</u> | <u>Effective July 1, 2024</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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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