

Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

Working for you!



The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association is a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association and your professional organization in the state of Ohio. The OPPA focuses on all aspects of psychiatric care and includes public, academic and private practice psychiatrists, as well as psychiatric residents.

Our power is strengthened with each member's support and involvement. Your membership is critical to our profession and the patients for whom we care. The OPPA advocates on your behalf to support the profession of psychiatry and put our interests before key policymakers. You can count on the OPPA to represent you and your profession at the state level. Here are just a few of the many actions taken on your behalf:

Advocated in the State legislature on key bills that directly impact psychiatry and patients with mental illness including:

- **Passed a mental health parity bill!** Through the excellent advocacy work by the OPPA, we were able to help pass this legislation that will bring Ohio into alignment with the Federal Parity Law and enact certain compliance requirements to help with proper parity enforcement.
- **Passed a bill that will now prohibit execution of individuals with SMI and diminished capacity at the time of the offense!** OPPA championed this legislation and after nearly seven years of working to get such legislation passed, we finally did it at the end of December!
- **Passed PTSD coverage for first responders!** Following several years of a gridlock that would require the Bureau of Workers Compensation to cover post-traumatic stress disorder – unrelated to any physical disorder. Policy makers decided to create a program out of the Office of Budget and Management that will investigate and implement a robust, financially stable system and provide a report back to the policy makers.
- **Defeated a bill that would allow psychologists to prescribe medications!** The OPPA worked successfully with other groups and lawmakers to oppose the bill because of serious concerns about patient safety. OPPA was successful in keeping the bill from advancing in the legislature.
- **Advanced two pieces of legislation that likely get closer to passing this year (2021)** including: 1) legislation on **non-medical switching** (when patients are forced to switch to a different medication in the middle of the year for no medical reason due to a formulary change from the health insurer); and 2) **co-pay accumulator**, which prohibits a patient's co-pay assistance counting toward their deductible and maximum out-of-pocket cap.

Representing and enhancing the image and interests of psychiatrists by working with the news media, regulatory agencies and constituency groups to disseminate information to consumers, family members and the general public on issues of psychiatric medicine.

Educating members at multiple OPPA educational events to present the most up-to-date scientific information on the treatment of psychiatric disorders. The COVID-19 pandemic was announced the week of our scheduled 2020 live Annual Psychiatric Update. Although the event had to be cancelled, OPPA created a separate live webinar for each topic/speaker and saved it as an [online learning module](#). Additionally, the OPPA sponsored a series of webinars to educate members and their staff on all the changes related to [billing for Evaluation and Management Codes](#), new updates for 2021 and telehealth.

Communicating issues of importance at the local, state and national levels through information on the Website, the quarterly publication, *Insight Matters*, and weekly electronic *e-Insight Updates*.