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BCBS Physician Assistant Reimbursement Policy

I would like to update you on **Blue Cross Blue Shield's decision to reduce PA's reimbursement unless some rather restrictive guidelines are met.**

The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants has been in ongoing discussions with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Osteopathic Association in an attempt to affect changes in these guidelines. As we have previously communicated, BCBSM has already announced their intention to individually credential PAs for "direct billing" of their services. Unfortunately, the proposed language **demands reductions in reimbursement to 85% of the physician fee schedule unless certain restrictive guidelines are met.**

The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants has been working diligently to educate our physician colleagues and BCBSM on the detrimental effects this will have on patient care, practice efficiency and practice reimbursement especially in rural areas. During a telephone conference that MAPA initiated, Dr. Simmer, Chief Medical Officer for BCBSM, informed us that this process started over 1 1/2 years ago (without MAPA's involvement) and the **motivation behind the decision arose from negotiations with "major stake holders" (i.e. the auto companies)** who demanded discounts for healthcare services. In addition BCBSM has been highly motivated to bring parity to

their individual contracts (some of which previously did not provide reimbursement for PA services).

In the meeting, MAPA representatives outlined the uniqueness of PA provided services and the team based model of healthcare delivery we provide, highlighting potential downfalls of the proposed guidelines, such as reduced access in an already ailing Michigan Healthcare system. These **downfalls include increased administrative burden and penalizing practices where more experienced/mature PAs** who inherently may require less supervision will not qualify for 100% reimbursement (yet are still appropriately supervised under current BCBSM policies and in the Michigan Public Health code). These concerns were acknowledged and Dr. Simmer suggested MSMS, MOA and MAPA offer language that might clarify certain areas of their proposed policy with a deadline for final input being 2/13/2008.

After proposed language changes by both MSMS and MAPA were shared, a Third Party Payer meeting was held on 2/13/2008 at MSMS. Dr. Simmer was an unexpected attendee and again reiterated **BCBSM's intention to go ahead with their proposed guidelines with "further clarification" to be printed in the upcoming March "The Record".** Throughout this process

Continued on Page 2

and at this meeting **MAPA made it clear that we did not support any discount in our services** due to the high quality, cost effective nature of the care we provide and our unique relationship with our supervising physicians.

Realizing that BCBSM is highly motivated to please their major stakeholders and fully intends to enact this new policy, MAPA again suggested language changes that more closely mirror Michigan state law.

Dr. Simmer acknowledged our input but noted that his final version would be published in "The Record" but that the language would likely be altered only slightly.

Please visit www.michiganpa.org to view MAPA's official response to this issue.

So what can Michigan PAs do?

1. **The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants implores each individual physician assistant in Michigan to be certain their supervising physician is aware of this policy change and ask him or her to provide feedback on its impact on your practice to:**

Dr. Tom Simmer, Medical Director
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
600 Lafayette East Detroit, MI 48226
tsimmer@bcbsm.com

2. **For MAPA to continue to effectively influence BCBS policy, we need the answer to three questions about your practice.**

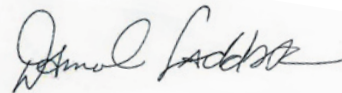
- a. What is the average number of Blue Cross patients you see in your practice each day?
- b. Is your supervising physician a member of MOA?
- c. Is your supervising physician a member of MSMS?

Please visit www.michiganpa.org and click on Your Influence on the BCBS Policy Survey. If you have any questions, please call the MAPA office 877-YES-MAPA

MAPA is committed to the Physician / PA team and with your support; we will continue to defend PA practice and proper reimbursement for PAs in Michigan.

If you are not a MAPA member, we ask that you join today so we can continue to advocate for Michigan PAs on important issues such as this.

Sincerely,



Daniel F. Ladd, PA-C
Chair, Reimbursement Committee

Call for Nominations

Are you interested in becoming involved in PA Leadership? Utilize your leadership skills by becoming involved in the MAPA Board of Directors! We are now asking for nominations for the offices of President Elect, Treasurer, Regions 2,4,6, Chief Delegate, Delegate, and Alternate Delegates. Please take the time to seriously consider giving back to your profession. We need energetic and creative individuals to ensure the future quality of healthcare for our patients. We all lead very active lives, but volunteering your time to give something back to your profession will make a difference for your patients and for you personally. Be a part of the tradition and excitement that is the Michigan Academy!

For sample platform letters and Board position descriptions visit the MAPA website www.michiganpa.org and click on Call for Candidates for details.

Contact the MAPA office at
877-YES-MAPA or
mapa@michiganpa.org



The Central Michigan University physician Assistant program will be hosting a 5K at CMU April 19th, 2008. As a new tradition for the program, Central would like this event to represent a group or organization, in need of financial assistance. This year the money raised for the 5K will be donated to benefit Hospice of Central Michigan. Hospice of Central Michigan is a non-profit organization, who provides care to terminally ill patients in a home care setting.

The CMU PA program would like to invite all Michigan PAs to come and participate by running or walking in the event with friends or family. The race will take place at 9 am at the Indoor Athletic Complex on CMU's campus, with registration beginning at 8 am. Cost is \$15 for pre-registration and \$20 the day of the race. If you have any questions or would like a form to pre-register please email Breanna Bailey at baile1b@cmich.edu. We would love for this event to help spread the knowledge of the Physician Assistant profession and provide the opportunity to promote health and wellness in our community.

WMU PA Update

During the months of November and December the Western Michigan University SAAAPA chapter in conjunction with the School of Social Work collected coats, hats and mittens for the needy in the Kalamazoo area. The class was able to collect a large number of winter items which are greatly needed during these cold winter months!

Our class is also participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in April. The 24 hour event will be held beginning on April 11th at Kanley Track on the campus of Western Michigan University. To donate to the ACS Relay for Life direct your web browser to www.relayforlife.org locate the WMU relay and search for 'PA Powerhouse'



Members of the WMU SAAAPA Chapter with some of the items collected during the winter coat drive.

WSU PA Update

By Erika Slating, PA-S

WSU 2009 MAPA Representative

As the first year of the program comes to a close, the WSU PA Class of 2009 is gearing up for the transition into second year of rotations.

Exciting opportunity waits as two students have been chosen to participate in the Adventures in Lobbying and will be traveling to Washington D.C. to see first hand legislation in action. Also, four students will be able to attend the AAPA Annual Conference in May in San Antonio, Texas.

In February, the students will be involved in having a health fair at the Cleveland Intermediate High School in Detroit. The school has students ranging in grades from 7-12 and will learn valuable lessons in health prevention and education along with exercise and nutrition.

Recently, the PA foundation rewarded our class with a generous monetary grant of \$6,000 to give assistance and funding for a free local medical facility, The Cass Health Care Clinic in Detroit.

Three students have applied for the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, which will help to create a public health project. WSU's goal is for this aid to help expand the already existing program with Walgreen's free clinic in Highland Park, MI. This clinic allows students to conduct health screenings and provide health promotion to local residents. Also, this project is intended to be incorporated into the curriculum of WSU's PA Program.

Overall, the Class of 2009 is ready to put their skills and knowledge to good use with rotations beginning in May.

Invitation to CMU and GVSU Grads

For Central Michigan and Grand Valley State PA graduates, there is a new opportunity to stay active and in touch with your fellow graduates. Both PA programs have begun a Physician Assistant Alumni Association. This is a great way to stay connected with your fellow classmates, and also to network. If you are interested in getting involved in either association, please email andrewdbooth@hotmail.com. Thank you for your support!

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of MAPA member

Charles "Chuck" Stitman PA-C, age 55, of Hamburg Township. Charles passed away suddenly August 31, 2007. He was a 1983 graduate of the University of Detroit/Mercy PA Program and the Emory University Anesthesia Assistant Program. Chuck was employed @ Sparrow Hospital in Lansing Michigan. Chuck had a remarkable and caring bedside manner and always put his patients first. He leaves behind his dear wife Lora, his daughter Hope and his sons Matthew and Charles. Memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of Brighton Michigan Library



A Climate Change?



James Kilmark, PA-C
President, MAPA

I have been in office as President of the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants for almost 8 months, involved with the Academy for over 8 years and continue to be in awe of how hard this organization works for the PAs of Michigan! The individual volunteers that make up the Board of Directors as well as the committee chairs and their members truly work diligently to promote and

protect our practice here in Michigan. I point this out to you for a reason, over these months **MAPA has seen what I perceive as a change in the practice climate for PAs here in Michigan.**

While jobs are truly plentiful and, in spite of the many gains we've made in the legislative arena protecting our scope-of-practice, MAPA has seen outside entities try to "define" how we are supervised beyond what is well illustrated in Michigan Public Health Code. Along the same lines we are seeing much in the way of misinformation on what are appropriate billing practices for PA services often times from "expert" billing consultants. The reasons seem to vary as to why these issues arise but in part, supervision of non physician providers seems to be under scrutiny due to the advent of "Minute Clinics" and how physicians view them. Insurers are also expressing concern about non physician providers providing care in this type of setting and whether there will be "appropriate" supervision. Another interesting reason centers around major payers of healthcare benefits demanding deep discounts for the care provided to their customers which is thus passed along to physicians, healthcare systems and in recent cases PAs.

Many PAs are aware of the recent decisions that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has made regarding reimbursement for our services. If not, see the article regarding supervision guidelines for BCBSM in this newsletter. In addition to these new guidelines and the potential discounts tied to these, **BCBSM is also implementing plans to halt reimbursement for PAs that are hospital employed and providing inpatient services only. Also, the enrollment process tied to their new supervision guidelines also appears to exclude PAs from reimbursement for care provided in mental health**

settings and also states that the PA can be terminated as an enrollee "at will" which for our physician colleagues there is usually the provision for "due process" in such an event. I caution individuals to consider such issues before completing their enrollment forms.

MAPA has been working feverishly to educate BCBSM, Physicians, hospitals and our fellow PAs as to how bad these plans will be for Michigan Healthcare and BCBSM patients. Realizing that in a climate where deep discounts are being demanded and that BCBSM is able to make policy changes autonomously we will continue to fight for what is right for our patients and the PAs of MI. Specifically we will continue dialogue with our physician colleagues, major Michigan healthcare groups and Blue Cross to try and come to a positive result.

I am often asked by PAs, both members and nonmembers alike, as to what it is you get for your membership to MAPA. Here is what I say: **"Beyond high quality CME conferences, a great newsletter, plus access to MAPA's website that will answer many practice and reimbursement questions...but most importantly you get "Advocacy"!"** Know that MAPA and its volunteers put in long hours to help and maintain our ability to practice here in Michigan. **Now here is where YOU come in. Realize that you and your supervising physician too will play a huge role in the coming weeks and months regarding how the proposed BCBSM reimbursement policies will turn out.** I encourage you to have your supervising physician contact BCBSM and their physician organizations about why these decisions are bad for Michigan Healthcare. Also **realize that we as PAs can no longer be passive in our practices.** We must educate ourselves and evolve as experts on billing and reimbursement for our services so as to educate those around us (Our Spring Professional CME is a good start in this area). **We must individually advocate to maintain our practice environment and maintain our ability to provide "high quality, cost effective care" for our patients.**

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants so as to assist in maintaining our profession please contact Cindy Wikstrom our Academy administrator at 877 YES MAPA. Also if you know a fellow colleague that is not a member of MAPA lean on them to join. **The stronger in numbers we are the more effective we will be. Remember, MAPA is working hard for you but needs every individual PA in Michigan to help fight these types of climate changes!**

Together Rx Access Improves Prescription Access for Uninsured Michigan Residents

Nearly 10,000 People Enroll Each Week in the Prescription Savings Program

More than one million individuals* in Michigan lack prescription coverage. As Physician Assistants know, in many cases, people without insurance will either skip doses or refrain from filling their prescriptions in order to save on costs.



To help uninsured individuals without prescription coverage access the medicines they need, leading pharmaceutical companies sponsor the Together Rx Access® Program. Each week, nearly 10,000 people across the country are enrolling in the Program.

Most Together Rx Access cardholders save 25 to 40 percent[†] on brand-name prescription products. More than 300 brand-name prescription products are included in the Program.[‡] Savings are also available on a wide range of generics. The Card is free to get and free to use, and accepted at the majority of pharmacies nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

Individuals may be eligible for Together Rx Access if they do not qualify for Medicare, do not have public or private prescription drug coverage, have a household income of up to \$30,000 for a single person or \$60,000 for a family of four (income eligibility is adjusted for family size), and are legal residents of the United States or Puerto Rico. To enroll in the Together Rx Access Program, individuals can visit TogetherRxAccess.com or call 1-800-250-2839.

A unique feature of the Together Rx Access Program is the quick start savings card, which is a Together Rx Access Card attached to a brochure. Potential enrollees simply detach the Card, and call the toll-free number listed on the brochure to find out if they are eligible, enroll and instantly activate their Card. Physician Assistants interested in receiving a supply of Together Rx Access quick start savings cards for distribution to eligible individuals, can contact Amy Niles, Chair, Medical Relations and Advocacy, Together Rx Access at amyniles@aol.com.

* State Health Facts website: www.statehealthfacts.org accessed February 15, 2008.

[†] Each cardholder's savings depend on such factors as the particular drug purchased, amount purchased, and the pharmacy where purchased. Participating companies independently set the level of savings offered and the products included in the program. Those decisions are subject to change.

[‡] Visit TogetherRxAccess.com for the most current list of brand-name medicines and products.

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Need a job?



Visit www.michiganpa.org and go to job postings. There are several PA job openings waiting for YOU to apply!

Did you know?

93% of your MAPA Dues are tax deductible. The other 7% goes towards lobbying

Spring Professional Issues Symposium

Do you have any questions regarding PA scope of practice?

Do you need clarification on PA reimbursement?

Do you have questions on PA billing and coding?

**Register
here!**

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions,
you should attend the Spring Professional Issues Symposium!

This symposium is beneficial to you, your
practice, and your patients. Registration is open
to any office staff or supervising physician.
Please let your colleagues know the importance
of this event.

While you're there, stop and see

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY



**Physicians
Insurance
Agency**

MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency is a full service
agency offering members multiple choices in all
lines of insurance and is considered a physician's
single source for any kind of insurance, whether it's
professional or personal.

33rd Annual Fall CME Conference

Earn CME credits while having fun in your home state! There will be a
wine tour, family night, President's banquet, spouse/guest activities, 5K
run, and more!

October 9–12, 2008 at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City

Register now at
www.michiganpa.org

**Early Bird Special
Save up to \$50!**

www.MichiganPA.org





**Register now
for the
4th Annual
Spring Professional Issues Symposium**



**April 12, 2008
Somerset Inn, Troy, MI**

Saturday, April 12, 2008

7:00am – 8:00am Breakfast & Registration

8:00am – 10:00am Coding
Speaker: Richard Clouse, MD

10:00 – 10:15am Words from the Exhibitors

10:15am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 12:00pm Billing
Speaker: Ron Nelson, PA-C

12:00pm – 1:00pm – AAPA Product Theater Lunch

1:00pm – 2:00pm Electronic Medical Records
Speaker: Howard Wright, DO

2:00pm – 2:15pm Words from the Exhibitors

2:15pm – 2:30 Break

2:30pm – 4:30pm Reimbursement
Speaker: Ron Nelson, PA-C

_____ For Your Convenience, You May Register Online. www.michiganpa.org _____

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

_____ \$100 Fellow MAPA Members

_____ \$100 Other Office Staff if PA is a MAPA Member (Office Managers, Billers, Coders, NPs, Physicians, etc.)

Name of PA in Practice: _____

_____ \$300 Non-Members

_____ \$80 Student MAPA Members

_____ \$275 Symposium Registration Fee Including One-Year Fellow Membership in MAPA

_____ \$90 Symposium Registration Fee Including One-Year Student Membership in MAPA

Paying By Check [☐] **OR** Paying By Visa [☐] Mastercard [☐] Discover [☐] American Express [☐]

Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

**Room reservations should be made on your own at the Somerset Inn, Troy
by calling 800-228-8769. Be sure to tell them you are with MAPA.**

MAPA/Attn: Finance Dept. 120 W. Saginaw St. * E. Lansing, MI 48823 *You may also fax this form to 517-336-5797.

*This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers plan to request 8 hours of
AAPA Category I CME credit from the Physician Assistant Review Panel.*

Total number of approved credits yet to be determined.

Physician assistants should claim only those hours actually spent participating in the CME activity.

This program was planned in accordance with AAPA's CME Standards for Live Programs and for Commercial Support of Live Programs.

Will You Accept The PAMPAC Challenge?

Ron X. Stavale, Chair, PAMPAC

Will you accept the Physician Assistants of Michigan Political Action Committee (PAMPAC) CHALLENGE? PAMPAC challenges all PAs in the State to contribute at least one hour of your pay each year to PAMPAC. It is easy to figure out how much to donate but first I would like to explain why you should consider taking up this challenge.

PAMPAC allows the PA profession in Michigan (You) to participate more effectively in the legislative process that governs our ability to practice. With that sentence I think I have given you all of the information needed to consider donating to PAMPAC but for those not yet convinced then I will explain more.

PAMPAC is allowed to accept donations in order to direct monies to political candidates who we feel would best support the PA Profession in Michigan. We select candidates, both democrat and republican, who espouse an understanding of our role in health care and support us when we, proactively, hopefully not reactively, interact with the legislative process.

PAMPAC also works to educate those politicians who are less familiar with, and less of an advocate for, our profession. **By supporting candidates that advocate for PAs, and educating those who don't, we can help ensure the continuance of a positive practice environment for PAs in Michigan.**

So why have a political action committee and a legislative committee? Aren't they the same? MAPA's Legislative Committee is made up of your colleagues who volunteer their time to study the issues that confront our PA profession today, and decide what approach to use to overcome or improve upon those issues. PAMPAC accepts donations from PAs that allow our lobbyist to attend fund raising functions to support the campaigns of the candidates we feel are critically important to us.

The majority of the candidates that we support are members of the State of Michigan's Health Policy Committee, which is the main legislative committee we interact with. Hopefully you recall that in 2006 the Health Policy Committee blocked the Advanced Practice Nurses Independent Practice Bill from leaving their committee and did not allow it in front of the legislature for a vote. Although that decision was based on multiple factors, **I can say that PAMPAC, through your contributions, helped support key members of that committee get elected and we will continue to support them in the future.**

The problem is that we cannot continue to support the politicians who directly make decisions critical to our practice environment without your financial support. PAMPAC has no endowment, no rich benefactor, no Sugar Daddy (or mommy), no guardian angel or fairy godmother, no lottery winnings. **All that PAMPAC has is YOU!**

Without support from PAs such as you, PAMPAC is ineffective!

Here is an accounting of our PAC along with other key health care associations in Michigan. The January filings have not been tabulated and placed on line yet. As you can see, several of the groups have spent a lot of money. Actually the goal is to spend the money when needed. **Our account is woefully low and this limits our lobbyist to perform his job to the utmost.**

Political Action Committee	Current Account Balance	PAC Expenses to date October 2007	Account Balance Plus Expenses
Michigan Medical Doctors (MSMS)	\$ 93,118.99	\$ 10,785.00	\$ 103,903.99
Michigan Osteopaths (MOA)	\$ 79,047.39	\$ 21,451.46	\$ 100,498.85
MANA (Nurse Anesthetists)	\$ 46,595.70	\$ 15,739.00	\$ 62,334.60
MNA (Michigan Nurse Assoc)	\$ 48,163.07	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 62,334.70
Nurse Practitioner Council	\$ 4,439.47	\$ 2,108.00	\$ 6,547.47

Michigan Chiropractic Society	\$ 21,695.55	\$ 14,917.67	\$ 36,613.22
Michigan Chiropractic Council	\$ 4,221.80	\$ 23,871.35	\$ 28,093.15
Mich. Physical Therapy Assoc.	\$ 12,901.65	\$ 1,784.19	\$ 14,685.84
Michigan Optometric Assoc.	\$ 1,084.92	\$ 48,050.55	\$ 49,135.47
PAMPAC (Physician Assistants)	\$ 1,831.18	\$ 350.00	\$ 2181.18

PAMPAC doesn't have a half time speech to go out and "win one for the Gipper" and we don't have pep rallies. All we have is you, your pen, your check and your desire to keep your practice environment healthy.

We certainly need, appreciate and will always acknowledge the generosity of those who choose to contribute more than their fair share. One hour of pay per year? Can you do that? Just think of what the PA practice would be like without removing the roadblocks to practice that we have in the last 10 years. Think about the challenges that we face today and if we do not have legislative support then we put ourselves at a disadvantage.

The members of PAMPAC's committee and the volunteer PAs who serve on MAPAs Board of Directors strongly feel that PAMPAC is an integral part of the successes that the PA profession has had in Michigan. We urge you to consider supporting those who support you by making a donation. **Accept the PAMPAC Challenge. Divide your salary or PA income by 2080 hours and help create a viable PAMPAC committee for your future.**

If you work with, or know the following PAs please take a moment of time to thank them for their generous donation to PAMPAC during 2007.

Erik Saulitis, PA-C	St. Clair Shores, Michigan
Andrew Booth, PA-C	Byron Center, Michigan
Sherri Gerhardt, PA-C	Grand Ledge, Michigan
M. Lawaun Hance, PA-C	Ypsilanti, Michigan
Ruth Vandenberg, PA-C	Jennison, Michigan
Ron X. Stavale PA-C	Pleasant Ridge, Michigan
Beth Belesky PA-C	Rochester, Michigan
Cindy Hunt, PA-C	Farmington Hills, Michigan
Alan Faust PA-C	Kalamazoo, Michigan
John McGinnity PA-C	Attica, Michigan
Donna Hines PA-C	Grand Blanc, Michigan
Kelly Floriano, PA-C	St. Louis, Michigan
Rose Marie Higgins PA-C	Berkley, Michigan
Karen Isopi PA-C	Warren Michigan
Daniel Lemon PA-C	Traverse City, Michigan
Anthony Santini, PA-C	Clare, Michigan

If you have donated in 2007 and your name is not on this list then please contact

Mike DeGrow @ 517-485-8000 or @ lobbyguy@mikedegrow.com

Please take a moment and mail your check to

PAMPAC

c/o MAPA

120 West Saginaw St.

East Lansing Michigan 48823

Questions, comments and concerns can be sent to rxstava@comcast.net - Ron X. Stavale PA-C

Contributions to MAPA's Political Action Committee are voluntary and not tax deductible.

PA Workforce Issues

Adopted from

Larson, E.H. & Hart, L.G. (2007).

Growth and Change in the Physician Assistant Workforce in the United States, 1967-2000. *Journal of Allied Health*; 36:121-130.

In an effort to stay abreast of the research regarding the Physician Assistant profession, MAPA strives to monitor not only what is happening in Michigan, but what is happening across the country. In a recent publication, a PA workforce study that was conducted by the WWAMI Center for Health Workforce Studies (funded by the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis of the Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administrations) was highlighted. Here is the abstract from that article:

"The physician assistant (PA) profession grew rapidly in the 1970s and 1990s. As acceptance of PAs in the health care system increased, roles for PAs in specialty care took shape and the scope of PA practice became more clearly defined. This report describes key elements of change in the demography and distribution of the PA population between 1967 and 2000, as well as the spread of PA training programs. Individual-level data from the American Academy of Physician Assistants, supplemented with county-level aggregate data from the Area Resource File, were used to describe the emergence of the PA profession between 1967 and 2000. Data on 49,641 PAs who had completed training by 2000 were analyzed. More than half (52.4%) of PAs active in 2000 were women. PA participation in the rural workforce remains high, with more than 18% of PAs practicing in rural settings, compared with about 20% in 1980. Primary care participation appears to have stabilized at about 47% among active PAs for whom specialty is known. By 2000, 51.5% of practicing PAs had been trained in the states where they worked. The profession has grown rapidly; 56% of all PAs were trained between 1991 and 2000. In 2000, more than 42% of accredited PA programs offered a master's degree, compared to master's degree programs in 1986. Although many critical issues of scope of practice and patient and physician acceptance of PAs have been resolved, the PA profession remains young and continues to evolve. Whether the historical contribution of PAs to primary care for rural and underserved populations can be sustained in the face of increasing specialization and higher-level academic credentialing is not clear."

GVSU PA-students Ship Out Donations to "Cell Phones for Soldiers".

In honor and support of our troops and their loved ones back home, GVSU PA-students set-up drop boxes and donation sites in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. During the week of February 11th-15th students and faculty generously donated a total of 40 cell phones, 51 chargers and 21 accessories to be packaged and sent to the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. It's an easy way to recycle your old phones and help a soldier call their sweetheart for Valentine's Day.

Started in April of 2004 Cell Phones for Soldiers purchases prepaid calling cards for soldiers overseas with the help of donations and funds raised by recycling used cell phones and accessories. For more information and ways to donate please visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.



Abby Rogers PA-S1, organized the event and shipped out the phones.



ATTN: Region 6 PAs Join the MAPA team for Komen Race for the cure. Saturday, May 31st at Comerica Park in Detroit



The event raises money for breast cancer education, research grant money, as well as many community outreach programs. The event also raises awareness about the disease and the devastating effects it can have on patients and their families. The event starts at 8 am with the race and walk starting at 9 am.

To register for the team go to:

<http://www.karmanos.org/raceforthecuredetroit>

Click on the links to register under a team. The team name is Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants. Once you register, you will have a your own fund raising page. The money you raise is counted for both individual and team efforts. The cost of registration is \$25. You also have the ability to register for the 5k run, 5 K walk, or the one mile fun walk even though you registered as part of a team. I am sure that our team will have both runners and walkers. Deadline for team registration is May 13th. Closer to the event when there is a good idea of how many members we will have in the team, I will send an email out indicating where we will meet that morning to pass out your T-shirts (you provide your email address when you register)

This event is for a great cause and is a lot of fun. If you have any questions or difficulty with registration, please email me at jgrunwald@med.wayne.edu

Instructions for Team Members to Register & Join Your Team:

Your team has already been created! Now all you need to do is tell your team members how to register for the event and join your team.

1. Go to <http://www.karmanos.org/detroitraceforthecure/> and click on the "register online" link
2. Click on the button labeled "Register Now!"
3. Select your registration category and age group, agree to the waivers and push continue
4. Once in the registration form you can join your team. A list of all teams is displayed in a pull down bar at the top of the registration form – select your team from this list.
5. Continue registering by filling out the rest of your registration form. Push continue, enter in your payment information and push submit.
6. Upon registering 2 emails will be sent to you:
 - a. Email Confirmation confirming your registration was successful – keep this for your records
 - b. Email about your team member fundraising page – (a fundraising page will automatically be created for each registrant) this email gives you your fundraising page link and tells you how you can log into your fundraising center.

MAPA's Region 1 will hold their annual Spring meeting in Marquette, MI. on Friday, April 18th. Location, speaker and time have not yet been determined. Invitations will be sent to all Region 1 members when final arrangements have been made. If your mailing address has changed, please contact MAPA to update your information so we can keep you informed. Jim Kilmark, MAPA President, will give Region 1 members an update on MAPA business and current legislative issues.



If you are having difficulty please feel free to contact Active's customer support at 877-228-4881 or support@active.com

Coming to a city near you!

- **2008 Spring Professional Issues Symposium is April 12, 2008 at the Somerset Inn in Troy**
- **Legislative Day 08' is May 21 in Lansing at the Capitol**
- **The 33rd Annual CME Fall Conference is October 9-12 at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City**

**Check out our website for upcoming details
at www.michiganpa.org**



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East Lansing, MI 48823
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Fax: 517-336-5797
Email: mapa@michiganpa.org
Website: www.michiganpa.org

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