



MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA CREATES COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

The global coronavirus pandemic continues to grow, even as two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) have been developed and approved. Stepwise distribution is in full force across the United States, but what our country needs now are trained immunizers, and lots of them. Fortunately, the University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy has been responding to this urgent call with Pharm. D. students, faculty and alumni who can curb the spread of COVID-19 through their important work.

In 2020, the state of Montana declared UM an official distribution and immunization site for the COVID-19 vaccine due to its excellent research facilities and unique ability to respond to the public health crisis. Along with Harvard and Oxford, UM was named one of the world's top 10 universities helping to solve the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, UM's Pharm. D. program trains students how to immunize within the first two weeks of their study, creating more certified immunizers to meet the needs of the pandemic.

Ken Chatriand who is the clinical supervisor of the Pharm. D. students volunteering at the UM Curry Health Care Pharmacy (which functions under the Skaggs School of Pharmacy) has developed an efficient system for immunizing people as safely and quickly as possible. Students volunteer for 2 – 3 hour shifts in the immunization clinic so they can also attend classes. Together, the ever-evolving team members are immunizing people at the rate of 20 per hour, but as the clinic continues to expand into larger spaces, this rate promises to increase while still ensuring people stay socially distanced.

Chatriand demonstrates his pride in the role pharmacists and pharmacy students have been playing during this historic moment,

but the amount of work left to do is substantial. When asked how he's holding up, Chatriand compares the complicated process of population immunization to eating an elephant.

"It's a huge task," Chatriand said, "but we're getting it done one bite at a time...one patient, one vaccination at a time."

Katelyn Michell, a fourth-year Pharm. D. student interning at Curry Pharmacy as part of her 6-week community pharmacy clinical rotations, serves as the vaccination check-in coordinator. She consults her list when people arrive, confirming they have an appointment. Currently that means they're students, faculty or staff on the 1A list, people serving in the healthcare field who are working with patients. If there's any room to spare, Michell adds walk-ins, but they must meet the state mandated guidelines for the current phase of treatment.

"We've had very few no shows," Michell said. "This is the first time I've seen people actually excited to get a shot."

The clinic uses Moderna vaccines which come 11 doses to a vial. Once a vial is opened, all of the vaccines must be used within 6 hours, so Michell helps to ensure the correct number of patients arrive at the clinic each day in order to guarantee no vaccines go to waste. On top of managing the flow, she screens people for COVID-19 before allowing them to enter the clinic, and she directs them to a socially distanced seat that's completely sanitized between each client.

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act authorizes immunization certified Pharm.D. students to vaccinate

COVID-19 CLINICS continued on page 6

In This Issue:

Montana Board of
Pharmacy Updates

PAAS
National Application

MPA Health-Systems
Academy Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine
Billing Guidance

Upcoming Events

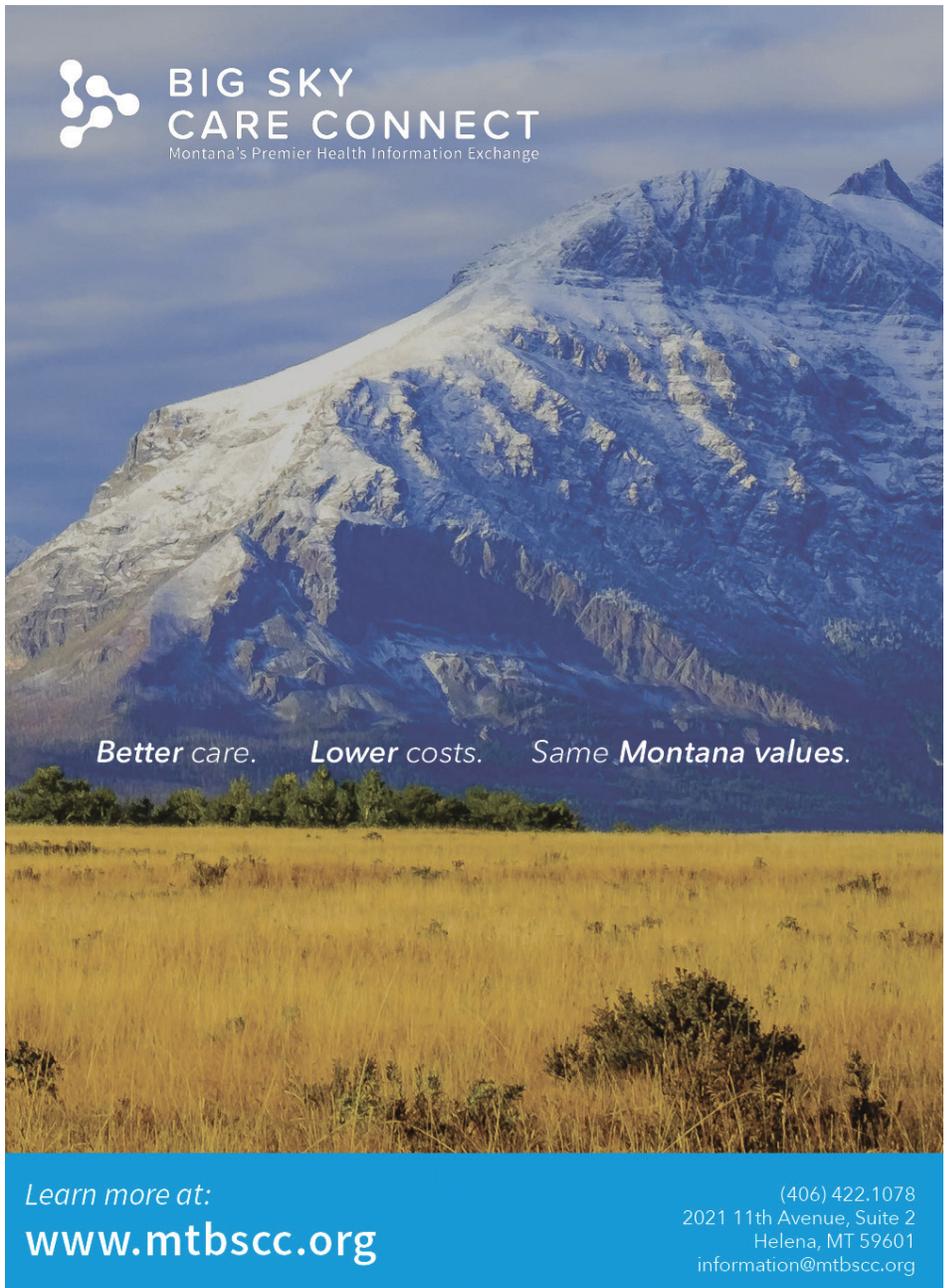


MONTANA BOARD OF PHARMACY UPDATES

- **New Board Inspector:** Please welcome Genine Pitts, PharmD, as the new Board Inspector, replacing John Douglas who retired. Genine started in February 2021 and joins Mark Klawitter, RPh, in implementing a combination of on-site and remote inspections.
- **New MPDR Staff:** Please welcome Nikki Griffis, PharmD, who started in October 2020 as the new Program Manager for the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR). Nikki is leading efforts to transition to a new software vendor and to implement MPDR data integration with pharmacy dispensing systems, electronic health records, and the health information exchange.
- **MPDR Vendor Transition:** Effective March 4, 2021, the MPDR program is transitioning to a new software vendor, Apriss PMP AWARxE, to support expanded prescription drug monitoring services in Montana. Additional information about the upcoming transition is available on the Board webpage (www.pharmacy.mt.gov) and on the MPDR webpage (www.mpdr.mt.gov). For facilities reporting to MPDR, the Apriss PMP Clearinghouse opened for registration on 2/2/2021.
- **Immunization Endorsement:** For pharmacists or pharmacy interns adding an immunization endorsement to their license, please submit proof of certification and CPR training to the Board at dlibsdp@mt.gov. An online CPR training course is acceptable. Pharmacy technicians who immunize must be supervised by a qualified pharmacist and comply with

requirements authorized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- For additional updates and contact information, go to www.pharmacy.mt.gov. ■

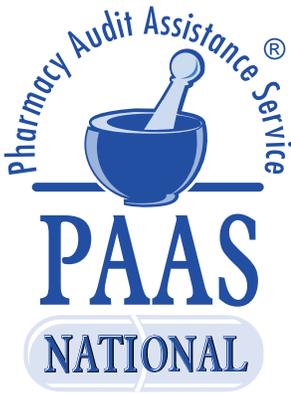


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- Insulin
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First Name	Last Name	Stores	2020 FWA Training	2020 HIPAA Training	Code of Conduct	Employee Acknowledgement	Actions
Jenevra	Azzopardi	PAAS National	✓ FWA Certificate	✓ HIPAA Certificate	✓ Code of Conduct	✓ Acknowledgement	View
Hope	Bartelt	PAAS National	✓ FWA Certificate	✓ HIPAA Certificate	✓ Code of Conduct	✓ Acknowledgement	View

Daily OIG & GSA exclusion list checks, any matches are flagged for you:

Status	Last Verification Date	First Name	Last Name	Middle Name	SSN	Sources	Acknowledged Until	Actions
✓	11/17/2020	Jenevra	Azzopardi	Leann	On File			
✓	11/17/2020	Hope	Bartelt		On File			

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<input type="checkbox"/> Audit Assistance only	\$519	\$960	\$1,335	\$1,720	call for rate
<input type="checkbox"/> FWA/HIPAA Compliance only	\$627	\$1,254	\$1,881	\$2,508	\$627/store
<input type="checkbox"/> PAAS Vault only* <small>Optional add-on with FWA/HIPAA Compliance membership</small>	\$99 FREE	\$198 FREE	\$297 FREE	\$396 FREE	\$99/store FREE

CHOOSE LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP TERM

1 year

2 years

If engaged in an audit - must enroll for 2 years.

- Must enroll all stores under common ownership for audit assistance. There is a **multi-store discount** provided for those enrolling more than one store.
- FWA/HIPAA membership entitles a pharmacy up to 20 employees. Additional employees are \$15, billed annually.

*Limited time offer - PAAS Vault is complimentary for one year to new FWA/HIPAA memberships.

Montana Pharmacists Association

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COVID-19 CLINICS continued from page 1

for COVID-19 under the supervision of pharmacists like Chatriand. UM Pharmacy faculty have stepped up to prepare all of their students for this important work.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Rachael Zins said, “We teach our students to be confident in their ability to administer any kind of vaccine. That starts with understanding a patient’s disease states, known allergies, or if the patient is immunocompromised.”

Immunizing for COVID-19 is not a speedy process. Even after patients are vaccinated, they must remain in their seat for 15 – 30 minutes while being observed for any signs of adverse reactions, such as anaphylaxis. Kirsten Ganaja, a third-year Pharm. D. student volunteer, explains these could range from difficulty breathing, fainting, nausea or vomiting, or skin reactions. Ganaja hasn’t witnessed any adverse reactions yet, but she’s prepared to initiate basic life saving strategies if required because the Montana Board of Pharmacy requires BLS/CPR training as part of the immunization delivery certification process.

“I’d probably look for Ken first, just to make sure I had my supervisor’s help, but definitely, I’m ready to administer epinephrine if needed,” Ganaja said through her 3-layer disposable mask and face-shield provided by the School of Pharmacy.

The state will shift to Phase 1B soon, and Chatriand has prepared for the increase in volume by developing a drive through immunization clinic. Patients will remain in designated parking

spots for the observation period. He envisions this clinic as an opportunity to expand the University’s outreach to high risk community members, perhaps older people who might not feel safe walking into a clinic.

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy is also moving towards coordinating vaccination efforts in rural communities where appropriate facilities for storing the vaccine do not exist and where human resources for undertaking such a large endeavor are limited.

Director of Experiential Education and Clinical Assistant Professor Cherith Smith has started to administer the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines to Native American and Alaska Native students, faculty and staff at UM who identify as high risk. She wears many hats and has vaccinated healthcare personnel, elders and high-risk populations at the All Nations Health Center in Missoula with Pharm. D. students and faculty assisting her.

“Students usually select the profession of pharmacy because pharmacists make a difference in patient’s lives,” said Marketa Marvanova, Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Acting Dean of the College of Health. “During this pandemic, our students have the opportunity to provide essential preventative services and further demonstrate the impact that pharmacists can make.” ■

University of Montana’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Our Pharm.D. students have a 93% first-time NAPLEX pass rate and close to 100% graduate employment rate. For more information, contact us at pharmacy@umontana.edu



MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The Montana Pharmacy Association has a Facebook page, available through the Association’s website at www.rxmt.org. This MPA feature serves as a popular and easy way for members and anyone interested in Montana pharmacy related issues to stay connected. We hope you will join us!



MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY



MPA HEALTH-SYSTEMS ACADEMY UPDATES

RESIDENT UPDATE

Jordan Amaro, pharmacy resident at Bozeman Deaconess became our resident liaison for this next year. With the expansion of residency programs there are now 23 residents in the state. Jordan is also diligently working on a study guide for students to pass the MPJE on the first attempt. We successfully conducted our first virtual residency showcase to give University of Montana students the ability to connect with residencies around the state. Due to its great success, this will now be an annual event.

ELECTIONS

With Shawn Patrick currently in the chair-elect position and will be moving into the chair position of the Health-Systems Academy in June. Logan Tinsen will transition to the past-chair roll. Raylene Stark the director of pharmacy, with the Holy Rosary Healthcare in Miles City has filled the At-Large member position.

8TH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR—APRIL 8-10, VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM PLATFORM

Save the date for the eighth annual MPA Health-Systems Academy Spring Seminar on April 8th through 10th. Due to the continuing of the coronavirus pandemic we have decided to have the conference in conjunction with the MPA meeting that is normally held in Big Sky. The seminar will be all VIRTUAL this year. The seminar will highlight research from the pharmacy residents throughout the state as they prepare for the regional Residency Conferences. The agenda will also include a speaker from ASHP, updates from the Montana state representatives to the 2021 ASHP House of Delegates. The planning committee is excited about the upcoming seminar and hopes to see you all there!

2021 ASHP HOUSE OF DELEGATE RESULTS

Voting concluded on January 20th. The house of delegates representing Montana are:

- Hugh Easley, PharmD; Pharmacy Director; Kalispell Regional Medical Center; Kalispell – Senior Delegate
- Starla Blank, PharmD, BCPS; Pharmacy Director; St. Peters Healthcare; Helena – Junior Delegate
- Lindsey Firman, PharmD, BCACP; Clinical Pharmacist; Bozeman Health; Bozeman – Alternate Delegate

Jason Nickisch will be transitioning from the senior delegate role. All will begin their new rolls as in February.

Lindsey, will serve as the alternate delegate from March 2021-February 2022 then progress to the junior and senior delegate role from March 2023-February 2024.

Questions, comments or concerns about the MPA Health-Systems Academy? Please contact:

Stuart Doggett, MPA
Executive Director
(stuart@montana.com)

Logan Tinsen, MPA
Health-Systems Academy
Chair (LoganTinsen@benefis.org) ■





COVID-19 VACCINE BILLING GUIDANCE

The light at the end of the tunnel is approaching as Operation Warp Speed delivered COVID-19 vaccines to healthcare workers and LTC residents in December 2020. There will certainly be bumps in the road, supply chain delays and allocations, which means that most patients will not be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines until mid- to late 2021.

The federal government has pre-paid for millions of vaccine doses and will be distributing them to health care providers at no cost,

which means that when government-supplied vaccine becomes available at community pharmacies, you will not have to pay to acquire it. For vaccine doses supplied by the federal government, pharmacies may NOT charge patients for the vaccine itself, but may bill payers for the administration. The federal government has mandated coverage under Medicare Part B, Medicaid and Commercial insurance with no out-of-pocket costs to patients. The CARES Act also provides for reimbursement for uninsured patients through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

PAYER	COVERAGE AND BILLING CONSIDERATIONS
Medicare Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHARMACY must enroll as Part B Provider (either as supplier type Pharmacy or Mass Immunizer) • Medicare Advantage patients will have vaccine administration covered under FFS • You will need a medical billing intermediary such as FDS, OmniSys, Change Healthcare, or EBS • Two-dose vaccine administration reimbursement = 1st dose \$16.94, 2nd dose \$28.39 • Single-dose vaccine administration reimbursement = \$28.39
Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be covered under pharmacy or medical benefit • All programs required to cover – FFS and Medicaid MCO • Reimbursement will vary
Commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be covered under pharmacy or medical benefit • Payers MUST cover it for both in-network AND out-of-network providers • Reimbursement will vary
Uninsured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacies may bill HRSA – managed by “Optum Pay” (must be contracted) – not the same as OptumRx

The coverage for COVID-19 vaccine may be under the pharmacy benefit (via NCPDP standard) or the medical benefit (via CPT codes). Here is a summary of billing information known to PAAS National® as of December 23, 2020.

Vaccine	PHARMACY BENEFIT*					MEDICAL BENEFIT		
	NDC-11	Billing Quantity & Units	Days' Supply	Dose 1	Dose 2	CPT Codes	Dose 1	Dose 2
Pfizer BioNTech ¹	59267-1000-01	0.3 mL	1	SCC-02	SCC-06	91300	0001A	0002A
Moderna ²	80777-0273-10	0.5 mL	1	to indicate “first dose”	to indicate “final dose”	91301	0011A	0012A

(1) Pfizer BioNTech vaccine has a package size of 1.5 mL and will deliver 5 doses of 0.3 mL

(2) Moderna vaccine has a package size of 5 mL and will deliver 10 doses of 0.5 mL

NCPDP also recommends that pharmacy claims will need to submit the following for ZERO-COST vaccines:

1. *Professional Service Code* (440-E5) of “MA” (Medication Administered)
2. *Ingredient Cost Submitted* (409-D9) of \$0.00 or \$0.01
3. *Incentive Amount Submitted* (438-E3) to request payment for administration (e.g., \$16.94 or \$28.39)
4. *Basis of Cost Determination* (423-DN) of “15” (free product or no associated cost)

MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY



In general, vaccine claims are low risk for PBM audits; however, audits are always possible, and you should be prepared with good documentation. The PREP Act authorized pharmacists to order and administer the COVID-19 vaccine. PAAS recommends pharmacies create a placeholder “prescription” for your records; many pharmacies already do this when billing for other vaccines under protocol. Additionally, it will be necessary to document the administration through a Vaccine Administration Record as well as provide the patient with an EUA fact sheet (in place of a vaccine information sheet).

PAAS TIPS:

- See CDC website for additional COVID-19 vaccine product information
- See NCPA’s COVID-19 Vaccine Information page for numerous resources

- NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Guidance – COVID-19 Vaccines 1.0 has a billing matrix for numerous scenarios
- See your medical billing intermediary for more details on billing Medicare Part B
- See your state Medicaid agency, health department and pharmacy association for local resources
- See HRSA website for information about uninsured patients

PAAS National® is committed to serving community pharmacies and helping keep hard-earned money where it belongs. Contact us today at (608) 873-1342 or info@paasnational.com to see why membership might be right for you.

By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit advice and FWA/HIPAA compliance.

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Calendar of Events

February 1: Registration Open for MPA & HSA
Combined Virtual CE Conference

March 12: Montana Board of Pharmacy Full Board
Meeting, Helena

April 8-10: 2021 MPA & HSA Combined Virtual CE
Conference

April 8: MPA Annual Awards (virtual)

June 9-11: NW Convention

2021 Continuing Education Offerings

MPA & HSA Combined Virtual CE Conference
April 8-10 • via Zoom

Northwest Pharmacy Convention
June 9-11 • Coeur d'Alene, ID