

# NCOGS NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Fall is upon us and I hope that the change in seasons will allow you to slow down and practice some selfcare. The pandemic is still with us and your practice is still adjusting to the new work flows that the pandemic and Medicaid Transformation has created but I hope that your work day stressors are easing.

Your leadership team continues to monitor the work in Washington, DC and Raleigh as our elected officials craft bills and budgets that impact our professional lives.

We requested feedback from you in our last newsletter and the results are: **83.3%** of respondents believe that NCOGS is equally both an **advocacy organization** and an **education organization**.

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“Go-live” occurred on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the Standard Plans and the awards have been issued for the Tailored Plans which will go-live July 1, 2022. Your practice will need to contract with the Tailored Plan that covers your region so review the information on the Medicaid Transformation website to stay abreast of the upcoming changes. You may feel overwhelmed by the large amount of information, but NCDHHS has compiled some comprehensive resources for you. If you are not familiar with the Provider Playbook Fact Sheets, start with this one: [NC Medicaid 2021 Provider Playbook Fact Sheet What Providers Need to Know: Part 2 – After Managed Care Launch](#)

Community Care of NC has also compiled an excellent resource targeted specifically at obstetrical providers. [CCNC OBSTETRICS June 2021 CCNC PMH Practice Communication](#) has contact information for all of the health plans and more. Please share this resource widely with your office staff members.

Medicaid is meeting with the Maternal Health Advisory Group each quarter to hear concerns from the field. This group has replaced the voice of the OB Champion Group and has representatives from patients and families, all disciplines that provide maternal health and all types of practice settings. Reach out to [velma.taormina@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:velma.taormina@dhhs.nc.gov) for questions concerning this work.

To assist Medicaid providers with the transition, the NC Medical Society has set up a [Medicaid Transformation webpage](#). This site provides valuable information and also an [online form](#) to share challenges encountered in the transition to the new Medicaid system. If you run into issues, you are encouraged to first reach out to the respective Medicaid managed care plan(s) to seek answers and

solutions. Each plan has set up a process to help both providers and beneficiaries. The NCMS will be aggregating all the submissions it receives and will also be following up with the Medicaid program to resolve any system issues. \_\_\_\_\_



## Advocacy Update

As the North Carolina General Assembly approaches the last weeks of a very long session, lawmakers have made important progress on a number of priority issues for the NC OB/Gyn Society.

Legislators completed their approval of [HB608 Dignity for Women Who Are Incarcerated](#) earlier this month. As you may recall, this legislation is a top priority of our Society. The bill provides important protections – [including a prohibition on restraints](#) – for pregnant incarcerated people in both state and local prisons and jails. A big thank you to all the lawmakers who supported this legislation, including Rep. Kristin Baker of Cabarrus County, Sen. Amy Galey of Alamance and Guilford Counties, Rep. Ashton Wheeler Clemmons of Guilford County and Rep. Donna White of Johnston County.

The Society also welcomed the passage of [HB96 Allow Pharmacists to Administer Injectable Drugs](#). Among other provisions, this bill increases access to contraceptives by allowing pharmacists to provide self-administered oral or transdermal contraceptives to women without a prescription. The provisions regarding contraceptives in this bill are consistent with [ACOG policy](#) recommendations aimed at improving access to contraceptives nationally.

As of this writing, the fate of one of the Society's other priorities – Medicaid expansion – is still unresolved but trending in the right direction. Legislators appear to be poised to [expand eligibility for pregnant women](#) one-year post partum as part of their ongoing process for developing the state's biennial budget. Prospects for expanding Medicaid beyond that - to the more than 500,000 uninsured in North Carolina - are still being discussed in budget negotiations between Gov. Cooper, who must sign the budget for it to become law, and legislators in both the Senate and the House.

Finally, while the effort to end physician supervision for all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses appears to be stalled for the remainder of the 2021 session, supporters of that change got an important boost when Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina sent a [letter](#) to legislative leaders supporting [legislation](#) that would end supervision for all medical specialties. The letter marks the first time the company has weighed in on the issue after years of staying on the sidelines of the debate.

In other news, the Society's lobbyist, Rob Lamme, recently provided a policy update about the 2021 legislature to OB/Gyn grand rounds at Atrium and East Carolina. If you and your colleagues would like to hear more about our policy work – or if you have questions about goings on at the legislature - please reach out to Rob at [roblamme@rlamme.com](mailto:roblamme@rlamme.com) or (919) 630-3375.

This work requires considerable resources to fuel our engagement on behalf of you and your patients. We need every North Carolina ob/gyn's support to help us maintain our effectiveness and to be prepared to respond when faced with the next challenge. Please join your colleagues by . . .

- Supporting [GOPAC](#), our political action education committee.
- Giving a little of your time to:
  - Meet locally (or virtually) with your legislators
  - Come to Raleigh for a White Coat Day event
  - Learn who key candidates for office are and connect with them

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## 2021 District IV Annual Meeting

*Back to Basics, Connected Through Learning*

Virtual Meeting / October 8-10, 2021



Due to the unpredictability of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's District IV Annual Meeting, scheduled for **October 8-10, 2021**, will be virtual.

While we will miss the opportunity to gather together in person, the Committee on Scientific Program and staff have developed an excellent and engaging virtual program. The virtual program has kicked off with a series of pre-meeting updates from different District committees. The final agenda has a number of outstanding speakers who will engage attendees in interactive discussions on important topics including COVID-19 in obstetrics and gynecology, obesity and its effect on women's health, telemedicine and telehealth billing, and many more. Special highlights include abstracts, a film festival, and a virtual exhibit hall.

Mark your calendars for **October 8-10, 2021**. Registration is still open.

The NC Section Report can be found [here](#).

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## **REGISTER for the 2021 5th Annual Perinatal Substance Exposure Summit Webinar! (October 29 & November 5, 2021)**

The 5th Annual Perinatal Substance Exposure Summit will take place on the mornings of Friday, October 29th and Friday, November 5th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. You will have the opportunity to hear from both national and state leaders who work with families affected by substance use disorder. You can expect to continue to receive this education in an interdisciplinary, comprehensive approach to engage your whole team.

You can register for this meeting [here](#).

***Mark your calendar!***

## **2022 NCOGS Annual Meeting April 8-10, 2022**

### **Kiawah Island Resort**

We are looking forward to returning to an in-person Annual Meeting when we next convene for our 2022 Annual Meeting. We have developed an engaging agenda and will forward registration information in the near future. We look forward to seeing you at the beautiful Kiawah Island Resort.

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## **Leadership**

We are seeking Society members who are interested in serving on our Executive Committee or in a volunteer capacity. We are committed to creating and maintaining a diverse leadership team. Some of the responsibilities of Committee members include, but aren't limited to:

- Attend all Executive Committee meetings. (Virtual and eventually in person)
- Identify issues of need or concerns in your community or across our state
- Help guide the Society's involvement in and response to issues of interest and concern
- Making proactive, regular efforts to communicate NCOGS organizational activities to colleagues.

It's a simple way to help make your voice heard and contribute to the Society's effectiveness. If you are interested in serving on our Executive Committee or in another capacity, please email a copy of your CV to [velma.taorminamd@gmail.com](mailto:velma.taorminamd@gmail.com). If you have questions about serving on the Committee, please reach out to any one of our current Executive Committee members.

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# Membership

2022 membership renewals have been emailed to our membership. We want to thank everyone who have brought their accounts into an active status. As a professional society representing our specialty, we rely on a strong membership in order that we can represent you effectively and promote the best interests of our patients. If you have not yet renewed your NCOGS membership, you may do so [online](#).

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## COVID-19 Vaccination – Patient Information

Here are some of the latest resources that have been published in the past month on COVID-19 and pregnancy:

[Preliminary Findings of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Persons](#)

- *New England Journal of Medicine* / June 17, 2021

[Pregnancy and COVID-19: What are the risks?](#)

- *Mayo Clinic* / May 18, 2021

[COVID-19 Maternal Immunization Tracker](#) (COMIT) - *Johns Hopkins University*

We continue to hear concerns over the decline in the rate of vaccination across the state's eligible population. The NC Ob/Gyn Society is therefore encouraging increased patient education about the vaccine safety and efficacy. Ob/Gyn physicians and practices can play a significant role in the effort to increase vaccinations, so please take the opportunity to engage your patients and their families on the importance of getting vaccinated.

To help you, we are pleased to share some resources that you can share:

### ***NCOGS "Just the Facts" Sheet***

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NCOGS-Flyer-COVID-19-Vaccine-Information-May-2021.pdf>

### ***COVID-related myths - Busted***

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-6-biggest-Covid-related-myths-busted-Advisory-Board-May-10-2021.pdf>

***How to Approach Patient Hesitancy to Get Vaccinated***

<https://www.ncmedsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Vaccine-Hesitancy-May-2021.pdf>

***NCDHHS “Let’s Bring Summer Back” Campaign Info***

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/BringSummerBack#can-individuals-participate-in-the-campaign>

We hope these patient information resources are helpful. Thank you for helping in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.