

Welcome to the **October 2017** issue of OCMA Connect, our monthly publication focusing on issues specific to Orange County physicians. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and we welcome your input. Please send your comments, ideas or questions to Holly Appelbaum at happelbaum@ocma.org.

Why I am a Member of OCMA/CMA and Why You Should Be, Too

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The reason that I'm a member of OCMA/CMA and why I think all physicians should be members of OCMA/CMA include the following recent rationale. I recently spoke with Jim Peterson a couple of months ago, having written as a California constituent to urge our state legislators to vote no on SB 790, an ill-conceived bill that aimed to restrict the ability of California's life sciences sector to educate healthcare providers and doctors on the clinical benefits of medicines.

Unless watchdogs are in place to do what OCMA/CMA do, we may be unaware of politics being played out that could be catastrophic for our patients and to our practices.

[Learn More](#)

SB 4 Ensures Stability of the CalOptima Board of Directors

On October 4th, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 4 sponsored by State Senator Tony Mendoza **to codify the current composition of the CalOptima Board**. The bill was sponsored by Orange County Taxpayers Association with heavy support from local business and provider organizations such as the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), the Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the California Medical Association (CMA) and the Orange County Medical Association (OCMA). **The goal for the bill is to stabilize the board's representation that has undergone several major changes over the last few years.**

CalOptima serves almost 800,000 Orange County residents and is the largest county organized health system in California. Since Orange County has no public county hospital, CalOptima's budget has grown to \$3.4 billion annually to serve the ever-increasing Medi-Cal community. **OCMA has three-member physicians currently serving on the board including the board chair Paul Yost, M.D. The other two members are Nikan Khatibi, D.O. and Alex Nguyen, M.D.**

OCMA Executive Director Jim Peterson stated that the success in passing SB 4 is a great example of how the community came together to do what's right for healthcare in the community. **"The partnership of so many important OC organizations along with the leadership of Senator Mendoza made this possible," stated Mr. Peterson. "The CalOptima Board has been somewhat of a political football over the last several years and you just can't play politics with people's health and with the provider community that is relied upon to serve these patients. Having a stable, professional board of community leaders, including physicians, is so important to CalOptima's success."**

SB 4 ensures the composition of the board through 2023.



Orange County's Healthier Together

Finding community health data just got a lot easier! OCHealthierTogether.org is an interactive website that allows anyone to find data and information about health and wellness in Orange County. The website features [dashboards](#) that show more than 300 indicators related to the health of Orange County organized by topics such as maternal, child health; exercise, nutrition and weight; diabetes; heart disease and cancer. In addition, indicators related to critical needs such as housing, transportation, and income are included, as is a database of more than [500 demographic items](#). Most indicators can be broken down to see how Orange County has trended over time, if there are differences based on sex, race/ethnicity, age, and in many cases geographic location.

Visit OCHealthierTogether.org to learn more.



CalOptima is the Top Medi-Cal Plan in California

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recognizes CalOptima's overall quality for the fourth year in a row.

CalOptima is California's top-rated Medi-Cal plan, according to the NCQA's Medicaid Health Insurance Plan Ratings 2017-2018. It is the fourth year in a row that NCQA has named CalOptima best overall in the state.

The NCQA ratings are based on standardized, plan-reported data regarding health care quality and customer satisfaction.

"CalOptima's top NCQA rating reflects the sincere dedication of employees and provider partners to our mission," said Michael Schrader, Chief Executive Officer. **"Members can feel secure about the proven quality of their Medi-Cal plan and our commitment to their best possible health outcomes."**

NCQA assesses Medicaid plan quality based on nearly 40 clinical measures related to both preventive care and treatments. Preventive measures report whether members get services to keep them healthy, such as well-child visits, immunizations and nutrition counseling. Treatment measures gauge whether members receive appropriate care in response to illnesses and chronic diseases, including diabetes and high blood pressure. NCQA also evaluates a plan based on nine customer satisfaction dimensions, such as getting care quickly and how well doctors communicate.

CMA Physicians' Confidential Assistance Line

Are you a physician or a dentist or their spouse who is trying to live with the following problems?

- * Depression/Anxiety/Anger?
- * Alcoholism?
- * Drug Abuse?
- * Severe Stress?

You are not alone. You and your family are important. Asking for help is one of the most difficult and heroic things you can do.

[Learn More](#)

New and Noteworthy: Books by OCMA Members

Many OCMA members are physicians who write more than prescriptions. OCMA has dedicated this space to promote new releases by OCMA members.



If you are a member of OCMA who recently has released a book that you would like to announce here, please forward your name, the title of your book and website for the book to Holly Appelbaum at happelbaum@ocma.org.

Business Partner Profile



KTimeHR

We are excited to partner with OCMA.
KTimeHR will save OCMA members time, which they can better spend on their patients.
We want to help OCMA doctors practice medicine, not business administration.

OCMA members receive a 20% discount on the monthly administration fee and 25% discount on set-up fees.

Service Description

KTimeHR provides employers with administrative services, including human-resource consulting, employee-benefit administration, time/attendance tracking, payroll processing, and securing workers' compensation insurance.

- Cloud-based, paperless technology
- Customized services
- Employee benefits (401(k), composite rates for medical, dental, vision, etc.)
- Dedicated key contacts

[Learn more](#)