



Georgia Chapter

# E-Brief

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January 3, 2018

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Applications now available for malpractice premium assistance



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

During its quarterly meeting on Oct. 25, the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce voted to approve the application paperwork for the Georgia Medical Malpractice Insurance Premium Grant Program.

Created through House Bill 769, the new grant program provides malpractice insurance premium assistance for physicians that practice in certain rural counties. The bill implemented recommendations from the House Rural Development Council, which is a two-year legislative working group committed to addressing challenges faced in rural Georgia.

All forms and application paperwork for the grant program must be received by Jan. 10, and the Board will review applications and vote to extend awards during its January 2019 meeting. [Click here](#) for more information about the program. [READ MORE](#)

### Top Georgia health care stories of 2018



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Health care took spotlight in governor's race

Brian Kemp won Georgia's highest office, keeping Republicans in power and supporting the party's longtime opposition to Medicaid expansion in the state. But Democrat Stacey Abrams, who not only endorsed expansion but made it a centerpiece of her campaign, came very close to defeating him. With Georgia's high rate of uninsured, the coverage issue appears far from dead. Kemp supports a proposal to raise the rural hospital tax credit program to \$100 million, though much of his health care agenda remains unknown. Still, there are hints that under his administration, Georgia may develop a "waiver" proposal that could extend coverage to an undetermined number of people without health insurance. [READ MORE](#)

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## CMS NEW QPP Account Management System



The week of Dec. 17, CMS quietly announced it is rolling out a new account management system for the Quality Payment Program (QPP): the HCQIS Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system (surprise, a new acronym to remember). This change is apparently effective immediately, as the [qpp.cms.gov](http://qpp.cms.gov) log-in page directs users to log-in using a HARP account.

Previously, QPP participants would use their EIDM accounts to gain access to the system and perform actions like reporting MIPS data, checking group MIPS eligibility status, accessing Physician Compare, downloading feedback, and reviewing final 2017 MIPS scores and 2019 payment adjustments. Now, you will use HARP to perform these functions. Note that EIDM accounts will continue to be used for outside programs, such as Open Payments; HARP is only for the QPP.

If you had an existing EIDM account for the QPP, CMS indicates it has already created a HARP account on your behalf. Those who are new to the QPP or did not have an existing QPP EIDM account should create a new HARP account. There are further instructions contained in a zip file in the QPP resource library (clicking the link will download the zip file, you can also find the file by searching the QPP [resource library database](#)).

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## ACP encourages members to comment on draft recommendations about the future of MOC



Vision for the Future

Dec. 13, 2018

The Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission, established by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), has [released its draft report](#) for [public comment](#). The report includes the Commission's key findings and recommendations, and will be open for public comment until Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 at 11 p.m. CST. Feedback collected during the public comment period will help shape the Commission's final report and recommendations on future continuing certification (maintenance of certification) programs. The final report will be submitted to the ABMS Board of Directors in February 2019. [READ MORE](#)

## Exchange enrollment extended in counties ravaged by hurricane until Feb. 20



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Federal health officials have extended the enrollment deadline for people in South Georgia affected by Hurricane Michael. They can enroll in the Affordable Care Act exchange till Feb. 20. Floridians affected by the storm also have an extended sign-up period. South Georgians who seek assistance from navigators can call [888-230-7772](tel:888-230-7772), or they can get federal help at [1-800-318-2596](tel:1-800-318-2596). The national deadline was Dec. 15 to enroll in 2019 coverage. [READ MORE](#)