

THE Senior SCOOP

Presented by
RetireSafe



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WELCOME

My name is Mark Gibbons, President/CEO of RetireSafe, welcome to our 1st edition of our monthly electronic newsletter. Each month you will find articles with links to stories about various state's issues that will have an effect on your healthcare and/or retirement. In addition, each month we will have a resource of the month and a monthly scam alert which is targeting seniors. If you would like to have us discuss some topic in the newsletter please reach out to me and we will report it.

Issues RetireSafe is Currently Working On

During this past month RetireSafe has joined other non-profit organizations in addressing issues on Capitol Hill that will have an impact on your healthcare. The following are issues that we addressed on your behalf:

Protect Patient Cost Sharing - we urge Congress to pass legislation that would delay the implementation of this rule to at least 2022 and reinstate the limitations on copay accumulators included in the 2020 NBPP. This will ensure co-pay assistance counts for brand name drugs that do not have a generic alternative.

Prior Authorization - We are deeply concerned with the current inaccessibility to Part B Medicare-covered drugs for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA). MA plans have been using prior authorization restrictions as a barrier to timely delivery of essential Medicare Part B covered drugs to beneficiaries, putting the health of these patients at risk. MA plans are required by law to cover the same services as fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare – plans should not be permitted to use prior authorization to circumvent this requirement.

COVID-19 Testing to Underserved Populations - increase COVID-19 testing nationwide address the needs of our most vulnerable communities being hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Non-Opioid Choices - The Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act (H.R. 5172/S. 3067) has yet to be included in a rescue package despite the bipartisan and bicameral support. As states reopen and elective surgeries resume, we fear our communities may soon see a sudden influx of opioids, which could lead to a new wave of opioid abuse. Patients deserve a choice and a voice in how they manage acute pain.

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SCAM ALERT!

There are many scams that have affected senior citizens. Sometimes it is hard to know if it is a scam or not, especially when it claims to involve a close family member. Each state has an AARP website that is a great resource to read about different scams that target senior citizens in your state. However, they also have a general page featuring different type of scams such as COVID-19, stimulus checks, and general money scams on their website which is linked [HERE](#).

There is a COVID-19 Whistleblower Protection Act that would allow for people to step forward and report the misuse of COVID-19 funds with protection. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

RESOURCES

[Area Agencies on Aging](#)

On the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's website, there is an interactive county map where when you click on your county, and it will tell you where your county's Area Agency on Aging is located. Area Agencies on Aging is a great resource for senior citizens. Their goal is to be a local resource for senior citizens of that county, and direct senior's to resources they need that the Agency may not provide. To learn more about your county's Area Agency on Aging check out the interactive map on this [link](#).



TIPS FOR OUR NEW NORMAL

As Vermont slowly reopens, help our community adjust to life in our new normal by sharing these reminders in conversation and on social media. Thank you!



Care for your neighbors.

Check on them, especially the vulnerable, and let them know you are thinking of them and can help if they need it.



Eat local. Order takeout from your favorite restaurant.

Follow the owner's guidance on how to pick up your food.

Shop your favorite stores as they reopen. Schedule an appointment or arrange curbside pickup.

Allow for the space of social distancing while participating in our local economy.



Be considerate. Be respectful.

Continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing when outside your home and around other community members.



Take care of yourself and your family, and remember we are here for you. Keep medical appointments.

All Gifford clinics, Primary Care and Specialty Services, are open.



giffordhealthcare.org/coronavirus-covid-19

Human coronaviruses are common and well-known to health care providers. The most recent coronavirus, COVID-19, was first identified in Wuhan, China, and is associated with mild-to-severe respiratory illness with fever and cough. COVID-19 has now been detected in 60 locations around the world, including the U.S.

Local News and Issues

[California](#)

The California State Department of Aging has a resource section on their website, that tells you what services are available in your county. To see what resources are available in your county click [HERE](#). If you are unsure of California's reopen plan or not sure what phase the state is in please use this link below to learn more about it. Please keep in mind that the reopening does vary county by county as well. Remember to continue to practice safety guidelines to keep yourself and those around you safe as well. Click [HERE](#) for additional Information.

[Ohio](#)

In Ohio, a bill that would require the release of information and test results of coronavirus testing has passed the Ohio House. This bill has yet to be passed by the Ohio Senate, so if you feel strongly about the issue reach out to your state representatives by clicking [HERE](#).

[Texas](#)

Texas is one of the 17 states that have not expanded Medicaid. With the Texas legislature meeting in 2021, now is the time to call your state representatives to get the issue of Medicaid on the agenda. Click [HERE](#).