

Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

Working for you!

The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association is your professional association in the state of Ohio. The OPPA focuses on all aspects of psychiatric care and includes public, academic, and private practice psychiatrists, as well as psychiatric residents.



Here's what the OPPA has done and is doing for its members lately:

- **Advocating** in the legislature on key bills that directly impact psychiatry and patients with mental illness including unlicensed alternative medicines, health insurance simplification and scope of practice issues.
- **Advocating against psychology prescribing** by thwarting an effort to insert a psychology-prescribing amendment into a prison reform bill!
- **Ensuring** that the state biennial budget includes language that protects access to and provides adequate funding for mental health benefits and services for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.
- **Opposing** "Step Therapy" language and "fail first" language by pharmacy benefit managers, managed care companies and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) so that physicians are not limited in prescribing the most appropriate and effective medications for persons covered by Medicaid.
- **Advocating and appointment of a psychiatrist** (for the first time) to the ODJFS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee!
- **Gaining an exemption for psychiatrists** from the prior authorization process for mental health medications prescribed to patients covered by ODJFS!
- **Protecting** the rights of patients and psychiatrists by addressing managed care issues that threaten access to needed and available inpatient psychiatric services.
- **Representing and Enhancing** the image and interests of psychiatrists by working with the news media, regulatory agencies and constituency groups to disseminate information to consumers, family members and the general public on issues of psychiatric medicine.
- **Providing grassroots advocacy training** so that more psychiatrists can have a direct input on shaping public policy as it relates to psychiatry and individuals with mental illness!
- **Educating** members at multiple OPPA educational events to present the most up-to-date scientific information on the treatment of psychiatric disorders.
- **Communicating** issues of importance at the local, state and national levels through information on the Web site, the quarterly publication, *Insight Matters*, and weekly *e-Insight Updates*.

02/10