

Medicaid Reimbursement for Interns' Services: We Need You To Advocate (In Your State)

Presenter Information*

Presenter Name	APPIC Member Program Name	City	State
Eddy Ameen, PhD	APAGS Staff Liaison to APPIC	Washington	DC
Sharon Berry, PhD	Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota	Minneapolis	MN
Catherine Grus, PhD	APA Staff Liaison to APPIC	Washington	DC
Nabil El-Ghoroury, PhD	APAGS Staff Liaison to APPIC	Washington	DC

Abstract* The imbalance between available internships and the number of available positions is a crisis for students as well as other stakeholders in education and training. Whereas we have witnessed slight improvements in recent years, data from the Commission on Accreditation show that only 60.1% of applicants from accredited doctoral programs matched to accredited internships in the 2014-2015 year (www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/research/report-data.aspx); current-year data from APPIC shows that 16% of applicants from any doctoral program did not match to any internship after Phases I and II (www.appic.org/Match/MatchStatistics/MatchStatistics2015Combined.aspx). One factor that undermines the creation and growth of high quality, accredited training opportunities is funding. In many states, sites are not reimbursed for the services that doctoral psychology interns provide. Medicaid reimbursement is a proven way to create a sustainable funding stream for psychology doctoral internships. Reimbursement could allow sites that have interns to potentially expand with new income from intern services, and/or encourage the creation of new internships at sites that did not have them already. In the United States, Medicaid provides services to underserved populations, particularly individuals from low income households. In addition, Medicaid provides health care coverage for many ethnic minority populations who meet income thresholds. Barriers to Medicaid reimbursement include restrictive interpretations of Medicare rules and regulations, discrepancies between Medicaid regulations and psychology practice regulations and legislation, as well as idiosyncrasies of Medicaid HMOs and corporate compliance/billing offices. APA is working hard to provide technical assistance and resources to advocates at the state level through the creation of a law fellow staff position, in addition to grants through the APAPO CAPP program and the development of an online toolkit with state case studies and videos (www.apa.org/ed/graduate/about/reimbursement). In this experiential workshop, panelists will engage participants in robust exploration of four case examples from both states that have had success in gaining reimbursement and states that are currently pursuing this avenue. Stakeholders involved in the training of interns are

positioned to be key advocates in this movement, and will benefit from increased capacity to understand global and technical issues and move through aforementioned barriers.

Learning Objectives:

#1* Participants will be able to describe three ways in which Medicaid benefits low income and ethnic minority participants

#2* Participants will be able to list five barriers to Medicaid reimbursement

#3* Participants will be able to discuss two strategies to overcome barriers for Medicaid reimbursement and apply two tools to carry this effort back to their home states.

References:

APA Practice Central (2014, August 21). Medicaid reimbursement victory in Arkansas. *APA Practice Update*, 11 (14). Retrieved from <http://www.apapracticecentral.org/update/2014/08-21/medicaid-reimbursement.aspx>.

Campbell, C. D., Emmons, L., Mangione, L., Grus, C. L., Berry, S., Dailey, K. C., Smith Hutchings, P., Nutt, R. L., & Siegel, W. G. (2015). Using the Psychology Internship Development Toolkit to increase the number of internship positions. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 9(3), 195-201.

Hatcher, R. L. (2011). The internship supply as a common-pool resource: A pathway to managing the imbalance problem. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 5, 126-140.

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. (2013). Medicaid: A Primer. Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/7334-05.pdf>.

Wells, S. R., Becker Herbst, R., Parent, M. C., Ameen, E., El-Ghoroury, N. H., Mattu, A., Wilson, G. A., Mereish, E. H., & FitzGerald, M. E. (2014). The internship crisis: Graduate students look back and plan ahead. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 8, 112-118.