



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION  
OF  
NURSE PRACTITIONERS

JANUARY 2021

# MISSISSIPPI NURSE PRACTITIONER MAGAZINE

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BUILDING BETTER HEALTHCARE FOR MISSISSIPPI



*Happy New Year!*

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## The President's Corner

Dr. Beverly Ann Glasgow, DNP, FNP, ACNP

**MANP** has seen growth despite the 2020 pandemic. We have steadfastly moved forward with our outreach to support the Nurse Practitioners in Mississippi. Many practice changes are in motion to increase reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid to the practitioners. We have found that nurse practitioners can provide the quality of care needed in impoverished and rural areas in Mississippi. Studies have shown them as drivers for lowering primary care costs in delivering the appropriate care with fewer prescriptions and emergency visits. As the health care delivery guidelines shift to a system that incentivizes efficiency and value, the nurse practitioner becomes the key building block. In 2014, Governor Tate Reeves and Representative Philip Gunn composed their initiatives for building a better healthcare system for Mississippi with steps for the nurse practitioner as a vital building block to achieve better care. Our governor continued to recognize the nurse practitioners with a proclamation for Nurse practitioner's week in November 2020. As our elected officials continue to build a better Mississippi, we must not forget the work and award given to Representative Sam Mims in Rural health. These individuals demonstrate attitudes that will promote a better health care delivery to those in need that so many of our practitioners are diligently working on daily in their communities.

As a group, we continue to practice within the scope of our education and experience in various specialties. As many states during this pandemic have sought to provide better access and care within their communities by dismantling the antiquated rules and contracts, Mississippi continues to ignore the outdated rules and regulations to free those entrepreneurial practitioners to pursue a better health care delivery system. Twenty-three states are building better systems. By 2021 we must strive to reach out to our legislators and community professionals for the removal of such antiquated rules and regulations to become a more vital component in building a better Mississippi health care system with our governor.

I encourage all of you to contact your legislators for ways to become disruptors and activists in this endeavor for good. All Mississippians win, as in the other 28 states, as they gain optimal care and access at lower costs.

As 2020 has come to a close, we are hopeful for a more peaceful healthy new year for all. God knows we seek and need it. As MANP President, I would like to wish you and your families a blessed holiday season with a new year of the heightened spirit of love and compassion for family, friends, neighbors, and the nation. We are here at MANP and we do hear you.

## Nurse Practitioners Making a Difference in Healthcare

### Membership Options

Annual membership \$300

Monthly membership (12-installments) \$25

NP student annual membership (never licensed as NP) \$100

Retired NP (65 or older) yearly membership \$150

Affiliate membership (Non-NP supporter) \$300

Membership dues go directly to promoting your profession and not for expensive salaries. We encourage you if you're not, to be an active part of MANP. We need your help to move your profession forward. Collectively, we can reach our goals and protect the progress we make.



# The Legislative Corner

John Morgan Hughes, Lobbyist



## Paying to Work: Ending the Collaborative Contract in Mississippi

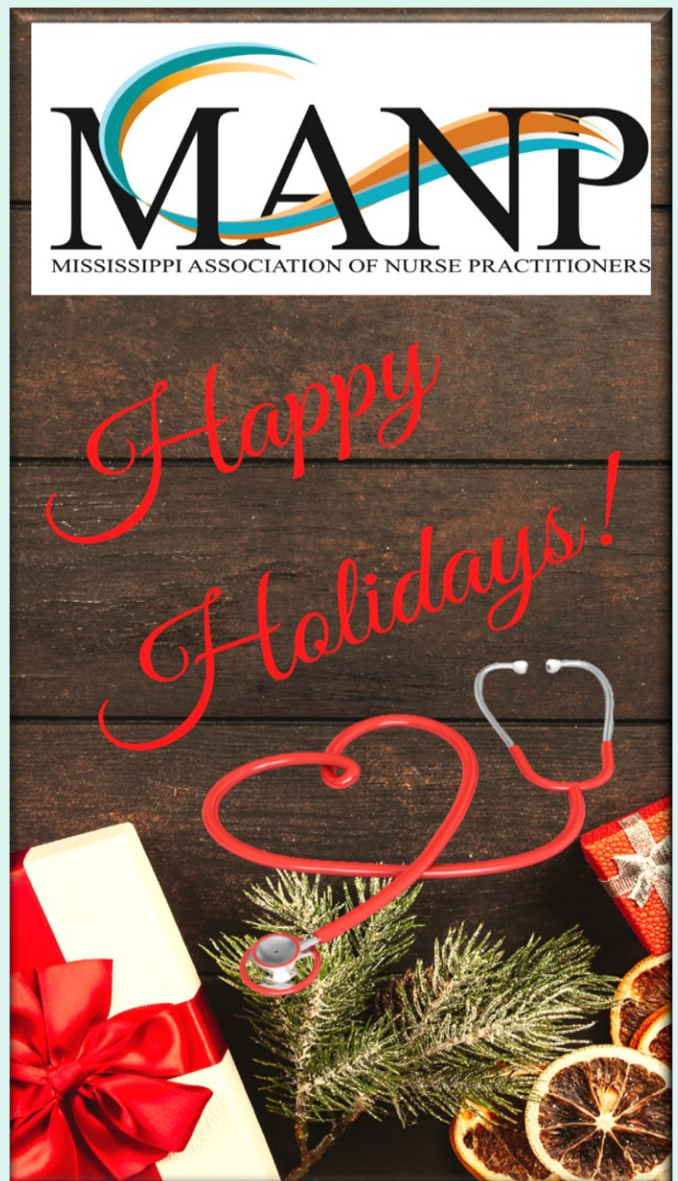
Greetings! I hope you are well and preparing for a jubilant holiday season with your loved ones and families. In the lobbying world, December means intensive prepping for the upcoming legislative session which begins on January 5th, 2021 and runs through the end of March. As your lobbyist, we are proud of the work we do on behalf of Mississippi's 6,500 APRNs, but specifically those of you who have answered the call and joined the ranks of Mississippi's only organization dedicated to the continued advancement of your field... Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners (MANP). The investment you make in your association has a direct impact on the work we do in educating elected officials on the vital role you hold in our state's healthcare industry.

Since 2014, MANP has actively pursued removal of the formal collaborative agreement. In 2017, our lobbying group joined MANP and have led the fight to remove the Collaborative Agreement aka the Collaborative Contract. Just three short years ago, Mississippi Nurse Practitioners were subjugated under the archaic rule that required one must be within 15 miles of their collaborator and no one Medical Doctor could collaborate with any more than four Nurse Practitioners. I am proud to report that today all that remains is the government mandated requirement for you to have a contract to go to work, something we are educating Senators and Representatives on daily. We must begin to put patients before profit. Twenty-three states have granted Nurse Practitioners Full Practice Authority and I truly believe Mississippi will be the next southern state to enact this meaningful reform. ZERO of these states have experienced any issues with quality of care or practitioners practicing outside of their scope since enactment.

Let me be clear, collaboration should and will continue if the contract is removed. The right to practice your trade to the fullest extent of your

training, unencumbered by onerous government regulations, is something we will continue to fight for. Please contact your local Representative or Senator between now and the 2021 session to explain to them just how punitive this required contract truly is and reassure them that you are ready, you are trained, and you are prepared to take care of Mississippi's most vulnerable patients!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.





## Upcoming Events

K Keep  
E Educating  
Y Yourself

**Jan. 30, 2021**

**FMCSA DOT Medical Examiner's Course**

8:00am – 4:30pm **CLOSED** WAP Training Office  
Canton, MS

**Mar. 06, 2021**

**2021 APRN Update, Pharmacology, & Membership Conference**

8:00am-5:00pm Oxford Conference Center  
Oxford, MS



**July 26-28, 2021**

**Annual Conference & Membership Meeting**

The Lodge at Gulf State Park  
Gulf Shores, AL

# The Clinic Owners' Corner

Dr. Wanda T. Stroupe, DNP, FNP-BC



## Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Primary Care First Model

**Mississippi was excluded!** According to AANP's recent publication, on November 20, 2020, CMMI announced the practice and payer participants in the Primary Care First Model, which will begin in 2021. That information can be found on the CMMI Primary Care First Model options [webpage](#). Additionally, as we previously have reported in the Government Affairs Update, nurse practitioners (NPs) participating in the Primary Care First model will be authorized to certify their patients' need for therapeutic shoes for the treatment of diabetes. On November 18, 2020, CMS [announced](#) that this authorization will apply to durable medical equipment (DME) claims with dates of service beginning on **April 1, 2021**. This was previously scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2021, so please take note of this new date if you are a participant in the Primary Care First Model. MANP has initiated efforts to get Mississippi's NPs included. We need your help to make this happen. Be an active part of MANP, numbers matter and so does speaking with one voice to make our concerns heard.

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## MSDH anticipates the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Mississippi soon.

Beginning January 6, 2021, Persons Aged 75 years and Older will also be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. All healthcare personnel and person 75 years and older will be able to schedule a vaccine appointment at MSDH COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the state. Physicians and Healthcare Settings in the state that are interested in vaccinating persons ≥75 years and other priority groups moving forward MUST enroll as a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider to receive COVID-19 vaccine to administer. Please see the link for the full Health Alert: <https://msdh.ms.gov/han/12226.pdf>

Regards,  
Paul Byers, MD, State Epidemiologist

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## Screen Patients Prior to COVID-19 Vaccination and Observe for Reactions

In an article by Gwen Smith in *Food Allergy* published December 16, 2020, and updated online December 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tom Clark, deputy director of the viral diseases division at the CDC confirmed six of the U.S. anaphylaxis cases in relation to the Pfizer vaccine on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The reactions are believed to stem from allergies to **Polyethylene Glycol** (PEG) in both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Dr. Clark said the reactions also emerged within the CDC's recommended observation periods. Definitely, something to keep in mind. Therefore, the CDC is now recommending: "Vaccine providers should observe patients with a history of anaphylaxis (due to any cause) for 30 minutes after vaccination." All others are to be monitored for a minimum of 15 minutes post-injection. **Polyethylene Glycol** is commonly found in items such as MiraLAX or the generic equivalents, a number of pharmaceuticals as an inactive ingredient, as a solvent, plasticizer, surfactant, in ointments, and as a suppository base. To learn more see

the links from CDC at [CDC Toolkits](#) [CDC Clinical Resources for Healthcare Professionals](#) or [Vaccine Product Information & Training toolkits](#).



## Billing Codes for the Vaccine

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid has added new procedure codes that can be used by providers to bill for COVID-19 vaccines. To learn more, read the information online at [Medicaid Vaccine Billing Guidance](#).



### Issuing Medical Examiner's Certificates to Drivers With Expired Driver's Licenses During COVID-19

FMCSA has been notified that some Medical Examiners (MEs) are refusing to issue Medical Examiner's Certificates (MECs), Form MCSA-5876 to drivers who have expired driver's licenses even though they are operating legally under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Waiver. Due to COVID-19 and the declaration by the President of a national emergency, FMCSA and many of the State Driver's Licensing Agencies have granted waivers from certain regulations applicable to commercial motor vehicle drivers that may result in an increase of the number of expired licenses that MEs may encounter.

Certified MEs listed on the National Registry are authorized to conduct examinations of, and issue MECs to, any driver that meets the physical qualification standards regardless of whether or not they have a current expired or unexpired driver's license. The ME is only required to use the driver's license to verify the identity of the person they are examining. An expired license is not a reason to refuse to conduct a physical qualification examination or to not issue the qualified driver an MEC.

*July 26-28, 2021*

*Join Us for CE and Sand*  
at The Lodge at Gulf State Park  
Gulf Shores, AL

*Happy New Year  
and Cheers  
to good health!*

*From Pediatrics to Seniors, we cover all!*

**Family Care Clinic**  
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*We would love the chance to take care of you and your family!*





MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION  
OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

*JOIN US!*



*NPs  
building  
a better  
Mississippi*

**Help us improve the health and welfare of MS residents by  
improving the stressed healthcare delivery system and  
access to quality healthcare within our state.**

### **WHAT MEMBERSHIP CAN DO FOR YOU**

- MANP advocates for full utilization of NP privileges in MS consistent with their education & training
- Works together with other nursing groups to provide one voice for NPs
- Advocates for significant issues important to the NP profession
- Discounts on conferences, continuing education offerings, AANP national certification renewal, AANP membership
- Provide NPs with up to date clinical, legal, professional, & pharmacological CE required for Board certification & state license maintenance
- Provides job advertising for employers seeking quality NPs
- Provides a network for NP students seeking preceptors
- Provides leadership opportunities to promote the professionalism, practice, public speaking, networking, & service on steering committees
- Promote & protect the NP profession through legislative efforts
- Work with leaders on a national & state levels to promote a positive NP image and develop strong utilization standards to reduce barriers in practice and business ownership
- Support legislative candidates that promote better access to quality healthcare provided by NPs



### **Join Us Today!**

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## MANP Members' Corner

### **MANP** Celebrated Nurse Practitioner Week Nov. 8-14, 2020

MANP awarded two free full conference registrations to the 2021 Annual Conference & Membership Meeting slated for July 26-28, 2021, at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, AL. The award drawings were held at the close of NP week from the pool of member entries. Congratulations to the two recipients highlighted in our members' corner.



#### **Martha Moore Clinton, Senatobia, MS**

**M**artha is a native of Senatobia and has been a NP since 1995. In September, 2008, she started a primary care clinic as sole proprietor. She delivered primary health care to complicated medical patients across the lifespan, performed various procedures, precepted NP students and acted as patient advocate. She sold the clinic in 2019 and is currently working at Family First Clinic of Hernando. She is an active member of MANP since 2017.

## Congratulations!

#### **Jennifer Moffett, Laurel, MS**

**J**ennifer is a native of Laurel. Jennifer is a registered nurse and currently a nurse practitioner student studying at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. She was a recent award winner of the JoAnn Vandergriff scholarship. She is a new student member of MANP. She believes her patients matter and healthcare can be better.



## July 26-28, 2021

Join Us for CE and Sand

at The Lodge at Gulf State Park  
Gulf Shores, AL

## Political Chaos

By Wendy Gressett, FNP-BC, Hickory, MS

In a world full of political chaos, I am one that is open to understanding other perspectives and make an effort to live in peace: just agree to disagree and move on. I would rather save my time and energy for something I enjoy doing rather than debating with others. Is this always best? Just ignore negativity? Recently our local television station ran what was felt to be a rather biased commentary about Nurse Practitioners and the poor education some are receiving. I was not able to view it all but was told it shined quite a negative light on nurse practitioners. This was disheartening to hear how my colleagues were so upset and felt as if they were being degraded. Several stated they had tried to contact employees at the station to hear their side but were unable to get their concerns addressed. I am a member of a local face book group that I started several years ago. I was a new NP who was so eager and ready to jump into my new profession but also aware I needed to form relationships/contacts with other NP's for various reasons. This social platform has allowed us to meet and share information as well as support each other in our field. After following all the comments my coworker Mary Ann Ward contacted MANP and immediately was able to let them know about our local issue. I am proud to say we working with MANP as they help to preserve, support and promote our roles as nurse practitioners. I could continue on my path of peace or rather keep my head in the dirt but we have all worked too hard to get to where we are. We are a huge asset to the community and provide great care and advocacy for the patients we serve. Please do not sit idly by but instead use your voice to educate others and show the skills that we all have acquired by our experiences, training, and education. There will no one better to take up this challenge than the ones reading this now.

## Controversial Television Program Downgrading the NP Education

[To read the full article click here.](#)

## Time to Get Involved

By Mary Ann Ward, FNP-BC, Collinsville, MS

I am a member of a local Facebook group for nurse practitioners. It was brought to my attention that a video was aired on our local news station. The short clip included a disgruntled nurse who was getting her nurse practitioner education from an online school in Buffalo, New York, and she had to write a paper on the movie "Fatal Attraction", that was worth a third of her grade.

The clip focused on her concerns that this was a high school assignment, and how she felt this was not an isolated incident for a nurse practitioners' education. It also focused on the point nurse practitioner's do not have a standardization of each program. Many critics may find students being unprepared for practice.

I read this and looked at both sides. I do see some students come through that I think don't have the right experience for their chosen program, but I also believe if they pass their national standards, they are competent to practice as a NP. The more I thought of it the angrier I became. After a few days I reached out to the MANP group. The president reached out to me the next day and started to get things done. She contacted the news station and AANP.

I'm not what I consider an activist, but the more I thought about the bad rap the profession was getting, I was mad and wanted something done. I have now volunteered to be on the education committee and no longer want to sit back and let someone else fight the battle.





## Meet “Moma” Marchionna

MANP held two conferences in March & July of 2020 while juggling the COVID pandemic. MANP was blessed with the presence of “Moma” Maria Marchionna, a 90 years young immigrant from Italy and mother of MANP Board Member Toni Marchionna. Moma who divides her residency between Canada and Jackson with Toni. Because of COVID, she has remained in Jackson. She diligently helped with our conferences greeting people, folding T-shirts, and many other tasks on both occasions in March at Oxford and July in Gulf Shores, AL. During the March conference at the beginning of the pandemic she received news from Italy she had lost her baby sister and again in July at Gulf Shores her another sister in Italy died. She mourned silently but remained at the events. She was unable to return to her home in Italy for closure. Strong bonds emerged within the Board and she affectionately became known as “Moma” to everyone. We helped give her support and tried to fill a void at such a heartbreaking time for her and all the relentlessly suffering in such a pandemic.

We are honored to have her as a vital member of our team. Moma has offered some great ideas and has supported us every step of the way. She has her own name badge and her own tasks to carry out. We have inducted her as our first honorary affiliate of MANP. If you see Moma at one of our events, be sure to say hello. She is such a joy to be around! Welcome aboard!



## MANP's Newest Honorary Affiliate Member

# What's Happening Around Our State

Tina D. Highfill, DNP, FNP-BC, CCM



In this edition, let us briefly discuss education around the state. Mississippi has traditionally been labeled as an underserved state that is consistently ranked among the worst in healthcare. However, Mississippi has Nurse Practitioner programs ranking among the best by US News and World Report.

Top ranking in the state is **University of Southern Mississippi**, in Hattiesburg. University of Southern Mississippi has always had a reputation for providing a strong clinical education for nurses which provides nurses a solid foundation. The family nurse practitioner track is among the best with state-of-the-art Learning Resources and Simulation Center. The University of Southern Mississippi offers graduate level programs for family nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse practitioner, and a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Both the online master's and DNP program are nationally ranked by US News and World Report. Dr. Carolyn Coleman, USM nurse practitioner program coordinator and vice-president of MANP's executive board reports that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges to USM as well as other schools but USM will not lower their standards because they face challenges.



**Nurse Practitioner program ranked best in state** Click link to learn more about [nurse practitioner education](#) in Mississippi.

Coming in with a #2 rank, **University of Mississippi Medical Center**, Jackson, is one of the state's leading centers of nursing research with investigation in health disparities, underserved populations, chronic diseases, and nursing workforce. The University of Mississippi Medical Center offers multiple tracks including the state's only combined acute/primary care pediatric nurse practitioner track and its only neonatal track. The University of Mississippi Medical Center asserts a 100% pass rate on the national certification examination for family nurse practitioners according to NursingLicensure.org.

Third ranking **Delta State University** in Cleveland, is another college with a preparation focus on family nurse practitioners. DSU has provided students various ways to complete their education which includes a higher number of clinical hours than other state programs. It offers an MSN and DNP program including a BSN to DNP.

Ranking #4, **Mississippi University for Women**, Columbus, and **Alcorn State University**, Natchez, both provide family nurse practitioner educational tracks. The "W" is among the oldest women's colleges in the United States and has consistently been a top contender.

In a 2013 study by Odell, Kippenbrock, Buron, & Narcisse, ([Read the full article](#)), looked at four Mississippi Delta Region states and noted a large percentage of advanced practice nurses were practicing in the area of primary care and were residents of rural area. The highest percentage of nurses were family nurse practitioners. These researchers concluded that the nurse practitioners could play a significant role in access to care issues for the underserved populations in these areas.



Mississippi nurse practitioners have been very influential in moving the nurse practitioner profession forward in the state by filling the gaps in healthcare and could potentially provide an essential role in improving the health of Mississippian's especially in the rural, underserved areas.

In 2014, Governor Tate Reeve, serving as Lieutenant Governor at that time and Speaker Phillip Gunn, authored *The Statewide Strategic Plan for Performance and Budgetary Success*. The statewide goal in this plan was "to protect Mississippian's from risk of public health and the to provide them with the health-related information and access to quality healthcare necessary to increase the length and quality of their lives." Additionally, noted in this plan

**William Carey University**, Biloxi, has focused its attention on educating nurses who intend to practice in Mississippi to relieve the nursing shortage.

were benchmarks to improve "access to care" by lowering the "number of health professional shortage areas."

The plan further set benchmarks to increase the "number of practitioners needed to remove health professional shortage area designations, by type of practitioner," increase the "number of Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) practicing in Mississippi, by public health district." ([Building a Better Mississippi](#))

Mississippi has actively pursued allowing nurse practitioners to practice to the fullest extent of their education, training, and competencies since around 2011. Sadly, we are still actively fighting the same old system. Nurse practitioners have advanced in our education and training with a high percentage now holding doctorate degrees, yet Mississippi's healthcare still ranks among the lowest in the nation.

Current barriers placed on NPs are restricting trade and creates unnecessary access to care barriers for patients. The number of primary care providers is insufficient to care for the existing patient loads and

current COVID-19 pandemic. APRNs can fill the gap and are desperately needed to care for the residents, especially in rural underserved areas of the state. Twenty-eight states have passed legislation to help fill the gaps in primary care, allowing full practice authority for NPs with Florida coming on Board in 2019.

MANP will work on your behalf to add MS to the list of those states allowing NPs to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training within scopes of their practice. Full practice authority does not mean "no collaboration." Nurse practitioners and other health care professionals will always need to collaborate within interprofessional realms.

Full practice authority is the removal of the formal contract required for NPs to practice in this state. When a collaborative physician's license is reprimanded, the NP's practice is halted due to the contract and cannot collaborate with a physician that has an encumbrance to their license. The sudden loss of collaboration stops the nurse practitioner's practice, and care to patients is ceased unless the NP has multiple collaborating contracts with physicians.

Not every nurse practitioner wants to open clinics or work in practices without a physician, and we get that. Nurse practitioners have a tremendous



level of expertise to offer patients and assist them in improving their lives and health. Nurse practitioners that have been trained, educated, and possess competency in skills should be allowed to practice fully within their scope and we have a regulatory board that will ensure the public's safety were nurses are concerned.

Many physicians see the value of nurse practitioners, understand the issues at hand, and also advocate on our behalf. Today, MANP partners with other organizations to advance the role of the nurse practitioner and elevate our profession.

In recent news from AANP, Massachusetts is now the 23rd state in the nation, plus the District of Columbia, Guam and the Mariana Islands, to enact Full Practice Authority for nurse practitioners. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) goes on to report that with the enactment of a major health care overhaul reform bill for Massachusetts, Governor Charlie Baker and legislators in the state brought full and direct access to nurse practitioner provided care to Massachusetts residents. Massachusetts now joins all of the full practice authority states in the region sharing the benefits of improved access to the provider of their choice. MS Association of Nurse Practitioners joins AANP in congratulating the Massachusetts governor and legislators in their wise decision.

## 2021 Awareness Calendar

### January

[Thyroid Awareness](#)  
[National Glaucoma Awareness](#)  
[National Birth Defects Prevention](#)  
[Cervical Health Awareness](#)  
[Stalking Awareness Month](#)

### February

[American Heart Month](#)  
[National Wear Red Day 2021; 5](#)

### March

[National Colorectal Cancer](#)  
[National Kidney Month](#)  
[National Nutrition Month](#)  
[Patient Safety Awareness Week; 14 - 20](#)  
[Nat Poison Prevention Week; 14 - 20](#)

### April

[Alcohol Awareness Month](#)  
[National Autism Awareness Month](#)  
[Testicular Cancer Awareness Month](#)  
[Every Kid Healthy Week; 19 – 23](#)  
[National Infant Vac Week; 26 - May 2](#)

### May

[National Nurses Week; 6 - 12](#)  
[Stroke Awareness](#)  
[Arthritis Awareness](#)  
[Skin Cancer Prevention](#)  
[National High Blood Pressure Education](#)  
[National Women's Health Week; 10-16](#)  
[National Osteoporosis Month](#)  
[Mental Health Month](#)  
[Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month](#)

### June

[Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month](#)  
[Men's Health Month 14 - 20](#)  
[National Migraine and Headache](#)

### July

[Healthy Vision Month](#)  
[Juvenile Arthritis Awareness](#)

### August

[Children's Eye Health and Safety](#)  
[National Breastfeeding Month](#)  
[National Immunization Awareness](#)  
[Psoriasis Action Month](#)  
[Summer Sun Safety Month](#)

### September

[Ovarian Cancer](#)  
[National Childhood Obesity](#)  
[National Cholesterol Education](#)  
[Suicide Prevention Day; 10](#)  
[Prostate Cancer Awareness Month](#)  
[Falls Prevention Week; 20-24](#)

### October

[National Breast Cancer Month](#)  
[Mental Illness Week; 3 - 9](#)  
[National Primary Care Week; 4 - 8](#)  
[Bone and Joint Health Week; 12 - 20](#)  
[Prescription Drug Take Back Day; 24](#)

### November

[American Diabetes Month](#)  
[Bladder Health Month](#)  
[COPD Awareness Month](#)  
[Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month](#)  
[Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)  
[National Alzheimer's Disease Month](#)  
[National Diabetes Education Week; 1– 7](#)  
[Great American Smoke out; 19](#)

### December

[National Influenza Vac Week; 6-12](#)