Prior Authorization (PA), obtaining approval from health insurers before performing a billable service, has been touted by third party payers as a cost-control process. The a priori assumption is that despite our years of pre-professional schooling, medical training, licensing/re-licensing, board eligibility/certification/re-certification, and – for those of us in institutional settings – initial credentialing/re-credentialing, as a group we are incapable of making clinically sound and appropriate cost conscious decisions regarding the care of our patients sans fiscal oversight by health plans.

The current system strikes at the heart of our professional autonomy, affecting our self-esteem and ability to focus on the most important aspects of diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of services in the context of patient centered, collaborative, and trauma informed care. As time devoted to communication with patients, families, pharmacy, as well as documentation requirements, are not enough, how much patient care time and a trajectory to health has been derailed by having to wait for PA. We also place our patients in a very uncomfortable loyalty bind and jeopardize our professional credibility when we have to tell our patients that their health insurance carrier is questioning our diagnosis and treatment plan and we must wait for their approval before a specific medication or test can be ordered.

A December 2021 AMA survey of more than 1,000 practicing physicians reveals that PA continues to harm patients and burden practices. The AMA has underscored that prior authorization is overused and existing processes present significant administrative and clinical concerns. “An AMA-convened workshop of 17 state and specialty medical societies, national provider associations and patient representatives developed best practices for prior authorization and other utilization management requirements by identifying the most common provider and patient concerns.”

The Prior Authorization and Utilization Management 21 Reform Principles address:

- Clinical validity
- Continuity of care
- Transparency and fairness
- Timely access and administrative efficiency
- Alternatives and exemptions

These PA reform principles led to discussions with the health insurance industry about reducing PA burdens and resulted in a Consensus Statement on Improving the Prior Authorization Process. On March 13, 2023, the APA sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes. The APA supported CMS’s non-technical proposals to improve PA processes and transparency, including:

- Reducing the maximum time to approve prior authorization requests
- Requiring payers to provide a specific reason for denials
- Requiring payers to report metrics on how many procedures they authorize and deny

APA recommended that CMS further reduce the maximum time to approve prior authorizations for urgent requests from the proposed 48 hours to 24 hours, and from the proposed 72 hours to 48 hours for nonurgent requests. Also recommended was that CMS further strengthens PA reforms by extending the proposals to prescription drugs.

Most relevant for us, APA district branches across the country, including MPS, are also pushing for PA reforms using APA designed model legislation as a template. It prohibits PA for generic prescription drugs, on any drugs that have been prescribed with- out interruption for six months, and on any long-acting injectable medication. It also requires that all coverage denials be made by a physician in the same specialty as the prescriber, that all denials be eligible for an expedited internal appeal process, and that the

(continued on page 4)
The Case of One Little Pill and One Court’s Big Agenda

While I sit in the corner, enduring a heated exchange between the Celtics and Hawks in Game 4 of the NBA playoffs, the screen pans to a TV time-out. It is a welcome cardiovascular break for Celtics fans.

But suddenly, I am caught off-guard. A ClearBlue® pregnancy test commercial appears across the screen. I watched as three different women from different walks of life experienced the same reaction to their test results. The worried college student in her dorm room, the anxious career-focused businesswoman at her desk, and the concerned wife at home all glanced at their tests.

A domino effect of happiness and relief swept across each woman’s face. They all received the test results they hoped for and instantaneous relief from the emotional weight of pregnancy uncertainty. But what if one of those women received an unexpected result? What if she now faced the challenges of an unwanted pregnancy?

Currently, 24.5 million women of reproductive age in the US have the capacity to become pregnant4. If she now faced the challenges of an unwanted pregnancy, she would be not defined, the statute explicitly included women of reproductive age in the US at the time of the act. This past April, the right of 64.5 million women of reproductive age in the US to access medication abortion was not defined, the statute explicitly included women of reproductive age in the US.3

Mifepristone was used to treat erectile dysfunction, is nearly 10 times more dangerous than penicillin, a common antibiotic used to treat strep throat. Additionally, in a 2000 report published in the Journal of American Medicine, the risk of death by taking Viagra, a medication used to treat erectile dysfunction, is nearly 10 times more than mifepristone.5

Sitting with this data, a notable and fiery chain of events ensued in our legal system:

- Less than two hours after the Texas judge issued his ruling, a federal judge in Washington state opposed the FDA’s decisions restricting access to mifepristone pending the appeal.
- The FDA and Danclo Laboratories (LLC) appealed to the Fifth Circuit decision last summer in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. This decision overturned Roe v. Wade (1973), which recognized the constitutional right to an abortion.

Effectively, the 5th Cir. decision took the generic alternative drug off the market, required a re-examination of events ensued in our legal system:

- The FDA and Danclo Laboratories (LLC) appealed to the Fifth Circuit decision last summer in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. This decision overturned Roe v. Wade (1973), which recognized the constitutional right to an abortion.

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With 321,000 psychiatric policies managed since 1986 and an A+ Superior A.M. Best rating, PRMS offers our clients a specialized policy tailored to meet your specific needs.

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PRMS offers more than a policy to support psychiatrists and the mental health community. We proudly partner with and sponsor 40+ psychiatry-specific organizations and give back to the behavioral healthcare community through our Refer a Colleague program.

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Angela Alkire, JD
Director of Claims

Julia Bajereanu
Client Relations Manager
AMBULATORY PSYCHIATRY POSITION

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a 650+ bed tertiary care teaching affiliated with Harvard Medical School, is recruiting for a part time ambulatory psychiatrist to provide general psychiatry and psycho-pharmacology services at our flagship community health center in Dorchester. The successful candidate for this position may be considered for a Harvard Medical School appointment at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. Part-Time, commensurate with experience, achievements and teaching contributions.

The Bowdoin Street Health Center is a multi-specialty practice serving the Bowdoin-Geneva community. We provide comprehensive primary care and behavioral health services, and are staffed by 12 medical providers as well as five clinical social workers and two part-time psychiatrists. Our behavioral health department is highly collaborative and is very committed to meeting patient need. In addition, the behavioral health department is fully integrated within the health center as a whole and there is ample opportunity for close collaboration with the primary care providers.

Founded in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood in 1972 by community residents, Bowdoin Street Health Center remains focused on providing outstanding medical care while maintaining a tradition of working with residents to identify and meet their unique health needs. The mission of the health center is to provide excellent, compassionate care to our patients and support the health of the entire community. Recognizing how social and economic factors in the community can also influence an individual’s health status, Bowdoin Street actively engages with community organizations and public entities to prevent violence improve access to healthy, affordable foods and promote wellness through exercise and stress reduction.

For more information on the health center please visit our Web Site: http://www.bshdc.org/CentersandDepartments/Departments/CommunityHealthCenters/BowdoinStreetHealthCenter.aspx

Applications are made online at www.hmsih.com/careers. Please respond to requisition #201385. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions or any other characteristic protected by law.

Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the nation’s leading hospital management companies is seeking Psychiatrist opportunities at the following locations:

Psychiatrist Opportunities in Massachusetts

AMBULATORY PSYCHIATRY POSITION

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a 650+ bed tertiary care teaching affiliated with Harvard Medical School, is recruiting for a part time ambulatory psychiatrist to provide general psychiatry and psycho-pharmacology services at our flagship community health center in Dorchester. The successful candidate for this position may be considered for a Harvard Medical School appointment at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. Part-Time, commensurate with experience, achievements and teaching contributions.

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Universal Health Services, Inc.

Psychiatrist Opportunities in Massachusetts

Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the nation’s leading hospital management companies is seeking psychiatrists at behavioral health hospitals in Massachusetts. The new associations will enjoy a Monday – Friday schedule, with no on-call requirement; opportunity for advancement; compensation, and benefits.

The region offers a plethora of recreational activities allowing for a professional career and a fulfilling personal lifestyle while in close proximity to Boston and Cape Cod.

Psychiatrist opportunities are available at the following locations:

Fuller Hospital in Attleboro
Pembroke Hospital in Pembroke

We are proud to offer:

• $1750 Base Compensation
• $1000 sign on bonus
• 20 Days Paid Time Off
• Health Insurance
• 401k Matching up to 5%
• Employee stock purchase plan
• Relocation
• Malpractice

For consideration, please contact Stephanie Figueroa, In-house Physician Recruiter, Universal Health Services, at stephanie.figueroa@uhscinc.com or (401) 695-9913.

For more information, please visit our Web Site: http://www.bshdc.org/CentersandDepartments/Departments/CommunityHealthCenters/BowdoinStreetHealthCenter.aspx

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Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the nation’s leading hospital management companies is seeking Psychiatrist opportunities at the following locations:

Fuller Hospital in Attleboro
Pembroke Hospital in Pembroke

We are proud to offer:

• $3,000 CME
• $2,000 Matching 401k
• Resident/Fellowship Stipend
• 30 Days Paid Time Off
• Health Insurance

For consideration, please contact Stephanie Figueroa, In-house Physician Recruiter, Universal Health Services, at stephanie.figueroa@uhscinc.com or (401) 695-9913.

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insurer renders a decision within 48 hours of the requested expedited appeal process.

MPS has filed House Bill (HB) 941/Senate Bill (SB) 677: An Act Relative to Utilization Review

This bill:
- Eliminates prior authorization for:
  - Generic medications that are not controlled substances
  - Generic and brand medications after six months of adherence (excludes controlled substances)
  - Dosage changes of the same medication
- Requires that insurers and PBMs adhere to a 24-hour appeal process
- Requires denials and denial reviews be conducted by physicians in the same or similar specialty

The MPS Council and its Healthcare Systems and Finance Committee are working closely with our Legislative Consultant, Lisa Simonetti, to track the progress of HB 941/SB 677, and to review and make recommendations to MPS membership about supporting additional bills proposed by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the other groups.

Your MPS is steadily taking the lead to reform PA and restore our professional integrity and autonomy to enhance the care of our patients and their families. We will notify you at once regarding any legislative progress.

John A. Frommorn, MD, DLFAPA
President, Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

References
2. Prior Authorization and Utilization | AMA (ama-assn.org)
3. Committee Statement on Improving the Prior Authorization Process | amagroup.org

Vinfen’s competitive offer package includes:
- Competitive salary and sign on bonus
- Ability to accrue up to five weeks of time off within first year
- Time off to attend conferences
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance for employees working 20 hours or more
- Flexible Spending Reimbursement Accounts (Health and Dependent care)
- Company paid Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Voluntary Term, Whole Life, Accident and Critical Care Insurance
- Retirement savings programs, including a fully funded, employer sponsored retirement plan and an employee funded 403 (b) plan
- Malpractice insurance offered with no tail
- $1,000 in reimbursement for continuing medical education credits
- Reimbursement for cost of renewing licenses
- Virtual New Employee Orientation and Virtual Training
- Laptop and iphone provided

For more information, please send a CV and letter of interest to Steve Jones, Director of Recruiting, at Jonesst@Vinfen.org.
LEXINGTON- Beautiful, Large Private Therapist Office to Sublet at Custance Place (76 Bedford St, Lexington)

Offering full-time private therapist office with 2 windows and deck in recently renovated/redecorated Condo suite. Beautifully furnished, large, sunny office and shared waiting room. 2747 access, handicap compliant, elevator and free abundant parking. Easy commutes to/from Rte 2, Rte 128, and Rte 3. Next to Starbucks. Priced at $1300 plus $40 electric per month. Contact: Noelle Cappella (617) 875-8717 nmcapp22@gmail.com

GROUND LEVEL, FULL TIME OFFICE AVAILABLE

Cambridge / Harvard Square - Part-time or Full-time: Lovely furnished windowed office in a renovated psychotherapy suite in a charming historic building in the heart of Harvard Square. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, A/C. Large sunny waiting room. One block from Charles Hotel, Red Line (T) and bus line. Sublet daytime, evening, weekend hours. Discounted parking nearby. Photos available. cryder@mclean.harvard.edu

OFFICE SPACE

Coolidge Corner, Brookline Office Available

Available for lease: Attractive, comfortable office in very well-maintained Coolidge Corner landmark building. 489 square feet. Includes private waiting room and spacious consulting room with high ceilings and very large windows overlooking Harvard Street. For more information, please contact Steven Shapiro at sshapiromd@comcast.net

Cambridge/Harvard Square - Full-time psychotherapy office available: Large office in a well-maintained, owner-occupied, 3 office suite at 1105 Massachusetts Avenue, a 5 minute walk from the Harvard Square T stop, and includes all utilities and wifi. Flexible start date. Photos available. Contact 617-913-8065 or sera@seramiller.com

LEXINGTON- Beautiful, Large Private Therapist Office to Sublet at Custance Place (76 Bedford St, Lexington)

Offering full-time private therapist office with 2 windows and deck in recently renovated/redecorated Condo suite. Beautifully furnished, large, sunny office and shared waiting room. 2747 access, handicap compliant, elevator and free abundant parking. Easy commutes to/from Rte 2, Rte 128, and Rte 3. Next to Starbucks. Priced at $1300 plus $40 electric per month. Contact: Noelle Cappella (617) 875-8717 nmcapp22@gmail.com

PREMIER PSYCHIATRIC SUITE 1180 BEACON STREET, BROOKLINE

Full time offices available. $1400 - $1800. Large W/R; kitchen, central A/C, parking. Derek Polonsky derekpolonsky@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP IN FUNCTIONAL & INTEGRATIVE PSYCHIATRY

Transforming mental health care education

Enroll in the most comprehensive and cost-effective training in functional and integrative psychiatry available. Join a community of peers dedicated to improving patient outcomes with integrative care— all led by functional psychiatrist and CMO, Dr. James Greenblatt.

- Direct faculty supervision and support
- Convenient, self-paced, and affordable
- 200 hours of curriculum
- 60 CME credits

Schedule a private call with Dr. Greenblatt to learn if this Fellowship is right for you!

PsychiatryRedefined.org/Fellowship

MPS NEWS

WMPS Chapter President Opportunity - We are looking for someone enthusiastic to plan meetings for WMPS, which are typically held monthly on the third Wednesday. Most meetings have been held virtually since the start of the beginning but in person is an option as well – be it in hospital meeting space, a local venue, private practice meeting space, etc. You will not be left to your own devices and will have full support from MPS staff and leadership. As president of WMPS, you will also be a voting member of MPS Council.

Please do not hesitate to email Mayuri Patel at mpatel@mms.org as soon as possible if you are interested. In the interim, WMPS members will be invited to join monthly virtual meetings of our SEMPS chapter but of course our goal is to have a new president in place as soon as possible so we can re-energize the WMPS chapter.

Do you like to write? Have a topic you think MPS members would love to read about? Reach out to Mayuri Patel at mpatel@mms.org for details on how to include an article in the MPS newsletter.

Education - You can now find the APA Monthly Free CME Webinar on the MPS website. Visit www.psychiatry-mps.org and click on the Education link.

APA/MPS Membership - If your APA/MPS Membership have been dropped as of March 31, we want to remind you that you can pay your dues using your credit card with a monthly payment plan. Please call 1-888-357-7924. Monday-Friday, 8:30am-6pm

MPS members are welcome to attend all committee meetings - MPS members are welcome to attend any committee meetings of interest noted on the calendar section. Please email the staff person listed for the meeting you are interested in order to receive the Zoom meeting link. We can also add you to any committees that interest you, so you never miss a meeting notice!

*Please note Executive Committee and Council Meetings are only attended by elected members.

MPS Newsletter is Available Electronically

The MPS Newsletter is available electronically. Please contact Mayuri Patel at mpatel@mms.org or at (781) 237-8100, x 1 if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.
The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is accredited by the Massachusetts Continuing Medical Education (MACE) program to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This activity is for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit TM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The cost is $25.00 for the meal and the CME credits. You can either pay by credit card or check. The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society designates the activity for Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Approval.

We will host a reception starting at 6 with dinner being served at 6:30PM. The program will start at 7:30 PM.

The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, PO Box 549154, Waltham, MA 02454-9154
781-237-8100 ♦ Fax: 781-464-4896 ♦ Email: mps@mms.org ♦ www.psychiatry-mps.org

Are you eligible and interested in applying for Fellow or Distinguished Fellow Status?

Contact the MPS Office.

We would be glad to assist you in completing your application.

The deadline for submission in the July/August 2023 MPS Newsletter is June 13, 2023. For additional advertising information, please contact the MPS Office at (781) 237-8100 x1 OR MPS@MMS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE
34th Annual Psychopharmacology Update
Saturday, November 4, 2023

The MPS Executive Committee, Council and staff wish you a safe and happy summer!!!
Seeking Part-time Psychiatrists for Southeast PACT Teams

Vinfen, the largest provider of community-based psychiatric rehabilitation services in Massachusetts, is seeking Psychiatrists to work with our Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) teams in Quincy and Plymouth to provide evidence based intensive home and community-based services to adults with severe persistent mental illness who are pursuing goals of recovery. The Psychiatrists, in conjunction with the Team Leader, will have clinical responsibility for psychiatric and medical assessments as well as prescribing and monitoring the treatment of persons served. The Psychiatrists will also provide clinical supervision, education, and training to the interdisciplinary PACT team comprised of professionals with expertise in rehabilitation, counseling, nursing and social work. In addition, the Psychiatrists will play a role in the development, maintenance, and supervision of medication and psychiatric and medical treatment policies and procedures.

The successful candidate will have:

- Valid license to practice medicine in Massachusetts required.
- Strong clinical skills and experience providing treatment to persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses.
- Experience in a related setting.
- Clinical supervisory experience; desirable but not required.
- Current Federal DEA and State Controlled Substances Certificates are required.
- Ability to successfully pass a CORI, reference, multi-state background, and professional licensure check.

Vinfen’s competitive offer package includes:

- Competitive salary and sign on bonus
- Ability to accrue up to five weeks of time off within first year
- Time off to attend conferences
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance for employees working 20 hours or more
- Flexible Spending Reimbursement Accounts (Health and Dependent care)
- Company paid Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Voluntary Term, Whole Life, Accident and Critical Care Insurance
- Retirement savings programs, including a fully funded, employer sponsored retirement plan and an employee contributed 403(b) plan
- Malpractice insurance offered with no tail
- $1,000 in reimbursement for continuing medical education credits
- Reimbursement for cost of renewing licenses
- Virtual New Employee Orientation and Virtual Training
- Laptop and iPhone provided

For more information, please send a CV and letter of interest to Steve Jones, Director of Recruiting, at Jonesst@vinfen.org.

Founded in 1977, for 40 years Vinfen has been a leading nonprofit human services organization that "transforms lives" by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations and communities to learn, thrive and achieve their goals. To learn more about Vinfen, and/or to apply to this or other Vinfen positions, please visit our website at www.vinfen.org/careers.

Vinfen is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status.

VA BOSTON IS RECRUITING A PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE HARVARD SOUTH SHORE PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM!

VA Boston Healthcare System is seeking candidates with a strong record of academic excellence and leadership experience in graduate medical education to lead our Psychiatry training program and coordinate psychiatry training with our affiliate training programs. The Harvard South Shore Psychiatry Program is a large (32 Residents), ACGME-accredited residency affiliated with the VA/Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry and enjoys a rich clinical environment and outstanding faculty dedicated to clinical research and teaching.

Qualifications: Applicants should have at least three years of major administrative and leadership experience in Graduate Medical Education and have strong interpersonal, clinical, and leadership skills. BC in General Psychiatry, qualifications for academic appointment at HMS, a commitment to serving Veterans, strong clinical teaching and supervisory skills, and a desire to work as part of an exceptional interprofessional team.

The VA Boston Healthcare System is an Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, under-represented minority candidates, Veterans and their family members are strongly encouraged to apply. The successful candidate must be a US Citizen. This position offers competitive salary, a generous leave and benefits package, $200,000 Educational Debt Reduction Program, and a faculty appointment commensurate with your experience.

Please email your letter of interest, CV, BostonPsychiatryPositions@va.gov.
Find a Psychiatrist

Participate in APA’s public online directory

Find a Psychiatrist is a searchable database for patients to find psychiatrists, like you.

Once you opt-in, patients and families can search for a psychiatrist by:

- Location
- Disorders Treated
- Patient Population
- Languages Spoken
- Insurance/Medicare/Medicaid Participation

To opt-in, visit psychiatry.org/fapoptin

Atrius Health

Psychiatrist, Outpatient – Atrius Health – Metro Boston

Atrius Health, a physician-led primary and specialty care group in the Boston Metro area treating one in ten Massachusetts residents, and a nationally recognized leader in value-based population health care, has an excellent opportunity to join the Division of Psychiatry in the Behavioral Health Department for outpatient position for both Child & Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrists. Both part-time and full-time positions are available, with telehealth and/or hybrid telehealth/office-based options in any of our Boston, Wellesley, Medford, Chelmsford, Quincy, and Beverly locations.

In this capacity, the psychiatrist is an active member of a collaborative multidisciplinary team inclusive of other MDs, PhDs, PMHNPs, LICSWs, and Care Facilitators among others, providing psychiatric expertise and support. In addition to traditional psychiatric services, the psychiatrist may provide consultation services to any of the pediatric, primary and specialty care services as part of the Integrated Behavioral Health services. Teaching, research opportunities and faculty appointments are available through our Academic Institute and our affiliations with Harvard Medical School and Tufts University School of Medicine.

Who are we?
Atrius Health, a pioneer and leader of value-based care in the country, is nationally recognized for transforming healthcare through clinical innovations and quality improvement. Academically affiliated, Atrius Health and its 700 and more physicians deliver an effective system of connected care for more than 750,000 adult and pediatric patients at over 30 medical practice locations in eastern and central Massachusetts. Atrius Health is committed to transforming the behavioral health care delivery system.

Why work with us?
You have the desire to transform psychiatric care in our communities and are committed to providing high quality, evidenced based care to a diverse and growing patient population, in addition to having an exceptional compensation and benefits package including:

- Very competitive productivity-based salary with a two-year base salary guarantee.
- Generous 401(k) matching with additional 457(b) option and health savings account.
- Up to $3,000 CME reimbursement, in addition to medical and specialty boards’ licenses and other professional fees reimbursement.
- Exceptional benefits package including health, dental, life, disability, & long-term care insurance.
- Six weeks of PTO per year and ten paid holidays.

As well as a unique and supportive clinical practice with the following highlights:

- Traditional outpatient psychiatric clinic with great administrative support including scheduling, prior authorizations, refills, etc.
- Integrated care with Primary Care Providers, Pediatricians and Developmental & Behavioral Pediatricians
- Telehealth and Hybrid (Tele/Office) modalities of care delivery with great schedule flexibility enabling greater work-life balance.
- Standard clinical encounter time with one-hour for initial psychiatric evaluations and 20-30 minutes for follow-up appointments
- After hours telephonic clinical triage services
- Advanced EMR with all that EPIC can offer

Qualifications:

- BC/BE in Child or Adult Psychiatry with recent graduates highly encouraged to apply
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment
- Fellowship in Addiction, in Community and Public Psychiatry, and Buprenorphine waiver are highly desirable
- Fluency in other languages such as Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and other is a plus.

If this speaks to you and your career aspirations, please reach out.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae addressed to the Chair of Behavioral Health, Manjola Van Alphen, MD, PhD, MBA.

Lisa Scully, Physician Recruitment, Atrius Health, 725 Grove Street, Suite 3-300 Newton, MA 02466; T: 800-222-4606 or 617-559-8275 within Massachusetts; E: Lisa_Scully@atriushealth.org   EOE/AA. www.atriushealthproviders.org
Find a Psychiatrist
Participate in APA’s public online directory

Find a Psychiatrist is a searchable database for patients to find psychiatrists, like you.

Once you opt-in, patients and families can search for a psychiatrist by:
- Location
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Opt-in at psychiatry.org/fapoptin  1-888-35-PSYCH  apa@psych.org

Psychiatrist, Outpatient – Atrius Health – Metro Boston

Atrius Health, a physician-led primary and specialty care group in the Boston Metro area treating one in ten Massachusetts residents, and a nationally recognized leader in value-based population health care, has an excellent opportunity to join the Division of Psychiatry in the Behavioral Health Department for outpatient position for both Child & Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrists. Both part-time and full-time positions are available, with telehealth and/or hybrid telehealth/office-based options in any of our Boston, Wellesley, Medford, Chelmsford, Quincy, and Beverly locations.

In this capacity, the psychiatrist is an active member of a collaborative multidisciplinary team inclusive of other MDs, PhDs, PMHNPs, LICSWs, and Care Facilitators among others, providing psychiatric expertise and support. In addition to traditional psychiatric services, the psychiatrist may provide consultation services to any of the pediatric, primary and specialty care services as part of the Integrated Behavioral Health services. Teaching, research opportunities and faculty appointments are available through our Academic Institute and our affiliations with Harvard Medical School and Tufts University School of Medicine.

Who are we?
Atrius Health, a pioneer and leader of value-based care in the country, is nationally recognized for transforming healthcare through clinical innovations and quality improvement. Academically affiliated, Atrius Health and its 700 and more physicians deliver an effective system of connected care for more than 705,000 adult and pediatric patients at over 30 medical practice locations in eastern and central Massachusetts. Atrius Health is committed to transforming the behavioral health care delivery system.

Why work with us?
You have the desire to transform psychiatric care in our communities and are committed to providing high quality, evidenced based care to a diverse and growing patient population, in addition to having an exceptional compensation and benefits package including:
- Very competitive productivity-based salary with a two-year base salary guarantee.
- Generous 401(k) matching with additional 457(b) option and health savings account.
- Up to $3,000 CME reimbursement, in addition to medical and specialty boards’ licensures and other professional fees reimbursement.
- Exceptional benefits package including health, dental, life, disability, & long-term care insurance.
- Six weeks of PTO per year and ten paid holidays.

As well as a unique and supportive clinical practice with the following highlights:
- Traditional outpatient psychiatric clinic with great administrative support including scheduling, prior authorizations, refills, etc.
- Integrated care with Primary Care Providers, Pediatricians and Developmental & Behavioral Pediatricians
- Telehealth and Hybrid (Tele/Office) modalities of care delivery with great schedule flexibility enabling greater work-life balance.
- Standard clinical encounter time with one-hour for initial psychiatric evaluations and 20-30 minutes for follow-up appointments
- After hours telephonic clinical triage services
- Advanced EMR with all that EPIC can offer

Qualifications:
- BC/BE in Child or Adult Psychiatry with recent graduates highly encouraged to apply
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment
- Fellowship in Addiction, in Community and Public Psychiatry, and Buprenorphine-waiver are highly desirable
- Fluency in other languages such as Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and other is a plus.

If this speaks to you and your career aspirations, please reach out.

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Lisa Scully, Physician Recruitment, Atrius Health, 275 Grove Street, Suite 3-300 Newton, MA 02466; T: 800-222-4606 or 617-559-8275 within Massachusetts; E: Lisa_Scully@atriushealth.org  EOE/AA. www.atriushealthproviders.org
Vinfen is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status.

Vinfen, the largest provider of community-based psychiatric rehabilitation services in Massachusetts, is seeking Psychiatrists to work with our Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) teams in Quincy and Plymouth to provide evidence based intensive home and community-based services to adults with severe persistent mental illness who are pursuing goals of recovery. The Psychiatrists, in conjunction with the Team Leader, will have clinical responsibility for psychiatric and medical assessments as well as prescribing and monitoring the treatment of persons served. The Psychiatrists will also provide clinical supervision, education, and training to the interdisciplinary PACT team comprised of professionals with expertise in rehabilitation, counseling, nursing and social work. In addition, the Psychiatrists will play a role in the development, maintenance, and supervision of medication and psychiatric and medical treatment policies and procedures.

The successful candidate will have:

- Valid license to practice medicine in Massachusetts required.
- Strong clinical skills and experience providing treatment to persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses.
- Experience in a related setting.
- Clinical supervisory experience; desirable but not required.
- Current Federal DEA and State Controlled Substances Certificates are required.
- Ability to successfully pass a CORI, reference, multi-state background, and professional licensure check.

Vinfen's competitive offer package includes:

- Competitive salary and sign on bonus
- Ability to accrue up to five weeks of time off within first year
- Time off to attend conferences
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance for employees working 20 hours or more
- Flexible Spending Reimbursement Accounts (Health and Dependent care)
- Company paid Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Voluntary Term, Whole Life, Accident and Critical Care Insurance
- Retirement savings programs, including a fully funded, employer sponsored retirement plan and an employee funded 403 (b) plan
- Malpractice insurance offered with no tail
- $1,000 in reimbursement for continuing medical education credits
- Reimbursement for cost of renewing licenses
- Virtual New Employee Orientation and Virtual Training
- Laptop and iPhone provided

For more information, please send a CV and letter of interest to Steve Jones, Director of Recruiting, at Jonesst@vinfen.org.

Founded in 1977, for 40 years Vinfen has been a leading nonprofit human services organization that "transforms lives" by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations and communities to learn, thrive and achieve their goals. To learn more about Vinfen, and/or to apply to this or other Vinfen positions, please visit our website at www.vinfen.org/careers.

Vinfen is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status.

VA BOSTON IS RECRUITING A PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE HARVARD SOUTH SHORE PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM!

VA Boston Healthcare System is seeking candidates with a strong record of academic excellence and leadership experience in graduate medical education to lead our Psychiatry training program and coordinate psychiatry training with our affiliate training programs. The Harvard South Shore Psychiatry Program is a large (32 Residents), ACGME-accredited residency affiliated with the VA/ Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry and enjoys a rich clinical environment and outstanding faculty dedicated to clinical research and teaching.

Qualifications: Applicants should have at least three years of major administrative and leadership experience in Graduate Medical Education and have strong interpersonal, clinical, and leadership skills. BC in General Psychiatry, qualifications for academic appointment at HMS, a commitment to serving Veterans, strong clinical teaching and supervisory skills, and a desire to work as part of an exceptional interprofessional team.

The VA Boston Healthcare System is an Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, under-represented minority candidates, Veterans and their family members are strongly encouraged to apply. The successful candidate must be a US Citizen. This position offers a highly competitive VA salary, a generous leave and benefits package, $200,000 Educational Debt Reduction Program, and a faculty appointment commensurate with your experience.

Please email your letter of interest, CV, BostonPsychiatryPositions@va.gov

Are you interested in applying or Fellow status?
Visit the APA at www.psychiatry.org
Your application must be submitted to the APA on or before September 1, 2023.

PSYCHIATRY POSITIONS

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, a 650+ bed tertiary care teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, is recruiting highly qualified staff psychiatrists. The Department of Psychiatry is a major teaching site for Harvard Medical School and the BIDMC. The Psychiatry Residency Training Program; positions will include opportunities for teaching medical students and residents and for faculty development. A Harvard Medical School appointment at the rank of instructor, assistant, or associate professor would be commensurate with the record of accomplishments. Opportunities exist on the following services:

1. AMBULATORY PSYCHIATRIST

This half-time staff position involves clinical care and opportunities to participate in the training of psychiatric residents. The clinical care involves psychiatric evaluations and ongoing treatment of outpatients in our general psychiatry clinic located within the medical center.

2. ADDICTION PSYCHIATRIST

This full-time staff position involves clinical care and opportunities to participate in the training of psychiatric residents in the Division of Addiction Psychiatry. The clinical care involves inpatient and outpatient consultations and ongoing treatment of outpatients in our Addiction Psychiatry clinic. Formal teaching and research are possible. Certification (or eligibility) in Addiction Psychiatry is desirable.

Applications are made online at www.hmsphysicians.org/careers. Please respond to requisition #85109 for the Ambulatory Psychiatrist and #85102 for Addiction Psychiatrist. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions or any other characteristic protected by law.
MPS is pleased to welcome the following New Members

General Member:
Ryan C. Alvarez, MD
Teresa G. Balderas, MD
Andres Mauro Chaparro, MD
Ronald D. Geraty, MD
Edward Mickey Hallowell, MD
Hyun Hee Kim, MD
Sangita K. Mallick, MD
Esteban Toledo-Carrión, MD
Marie Lyse Turks, MD
Khalidiah Booth Watkins, MD
Anthony H Vagmiucci, MD

Resident Fellow Member:
Aditi Agrawal, MD
Andrew Bacari, MD
William C. Coughlin, MD
Lauren Elaine Fields, MD
Shadaib Kazi, MD
Quinn Robertson MacDonald, MD
Isabella Mark, MD
Clairanne Moscono-Torres, MD
Bjorn Payne, MD
Sarah Ann Sanders, MD
Maria Fernando Sarmiento, MD
Christian Jonathan Smith, MD
Andrew Steven Tran, MD
Mohammed Omar Rahman, MD
Colin David Whithworth, MD

Transfer In:
Lakeshia C. Gibson, MD
Taber Cloey Lighbourne, MD

Are you eligible and interested in applying for Fellow or Distinguished Fellow Status?

Contact the MPS Office.
We would be glad to assist you in completing your application.

The MPS Executive Committee, Council and staff wish you a safe and happy summer!!!

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IN THE JULY/AUGUST 2023 MPS NEWSLETTER
JUNE13, 2023.
FOR ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE MPS OFFICE AT
(781) 237-8100 x1 OR MPS@UMS8.ORG

SAVE THE DATE
34th Annual Psychopharmacology Update
Saturday, November 4, 2023

UMass Memorial Health and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School currently have openings within the Department of Psychiatry.

The Department of Psychiatry is a national leader in addiction, biological, child and adolescent, and public sector, psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, psychosocial rehabilitation, and women’s mental health. We integrate our clinical, research, teaching and community partnership activities to help individuals and families transform their lives through recovery from mental illness and addiction. We are the largest provider of psychiatric services in central Massachusetts, with over 400 faculty members and 12 hospitals and community mental health centers in varied settings across the state.

Our residency program trains 7 residents per year, including general psychiatry and specialty tracks for combined adult and child psychiatry and combined psychiatry and neurology. We offer fellowships in Addiction, Adult Developmental Disabilities, Child and Adolescent, Forensic Psychiatry, and Neuropsychiatry.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are integral to the commitment of the Department and University. Accordingly, the Department seeks qualified candidates who can contribute to racial equity, diversity and inclusion through service, mentorship, teaching and scholarship. Candidates from historically underrepresented group(s) in higher education and medicine are encouraged to apply. Candidates who possess personal characteristics that might be considered as diversifying elements among the clinical team and the larger psychiatry faculty at UMass Chan are invited to identify themselves during the application process.

UMass Chan Medical School

Area Medical Director: DMH Southeast Area - Support the delivery of clinically effective and high-quality behavioral healthcare to the diverse persons served by DMH.

Facility Medical Director (Cape Cod and Islands Mental Health Center, Pocasset, MA) - Provides administrative and clinical oversight for the DMH-operated and contracted state hospital and community support programs. Clinical Care in our Partial Hospital program.

Full-Time Psychiatrist, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) - 2 inpatient positions.

Director of Therapeutic Services, Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH)

Part-Time Researcher, Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center (iSPARC), UMass Chan Medical School

Geriatric Researcher, Psychologist/Psychiatrist, UMass Chan Medical School

For additional information on the above, please contact Brian Daly, MD, Vice Chair, Public Sector Psychiatry bdaly@communityhealthlink.org

Interested applicants should apply directly at https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/UMASSMED/Pysch (J-1 and H-1B candidates are welcome to apply)

UMass Memorial Health

Medical Director, Psychiatric Treatment and Recovery Center (PTRC) - oversee all program functions for this 26-bed locked, acute psychiatric unit as well as coordinate and deliver clinical care

Attending, Psychiatric Treatment and Recovery Center (PTRC) - provide direct clinical services and work with medical students & residents on this teaching unit

Attending, Psychiatrist (Rotating/Cross Coverage) - provide clinical rotating cross-coverage within the Department of Psychiatry for vacations and extended medical leaves.

Associate Medical Director, Community Healthlink (CHL) - the ideal candidate will have a demonstrated commitment and passion for community psychiatry and an interest in a leadership role advocating for and promoting the well-being of traditionally underserved populations.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae addressed to Kimberly A. Yonkers, MD via Carolina Malloca carolina.malloca@umassmemorial.org


As the leading employer in the Worcester area, we seek talent and ideas from individuals of varied backgrounds and viewpoints.
OFFICE SPACE

Coolidge Corner, Brookline Office Available
Available for lease: Attractive, comfortable office in very well-maintained Coolidge Corner landmark building. 489 square feet. Includes private waiting room and spacious consulting room with high ceilings and very large windows overlooking Harvard Street. For more information, please contact Steven Shapiro at sshapiromd@comcast.net

Cambridge/Harvard Square Full-time psychotherapy office available. Large office in a well-maintained, owner-occupied, 3 office suite at 1105 Massachusetts Avenue, a 5 minute walk from the Harvard Square T stop, and includes all utilities and wifi. Flexible start date. Photos available. Contact 617-913-8065 or sera@seramiller.com

Cambridge / Harvard Square - Part-time or Full-time: Lovely furnished windowed office in a renovated psychotherapy suite in a charming historic building in the heart of Harvard Square. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, A/C. Large sunny waiting room. One block from Charles Hotel, Red Line (T) and bus line. Sublet daytime, evening, weekend hours. Discounted parking nearby. Photos available. created@mclean.harvard.edu

LEXINGTON- Beautiful, Large Private Therapist Office to Sublet at Custance Place (76 Bedford St, Lexington)

Offering full-time private therapist office with 2 windows and desk in recently renovated/redecorated Condo suite. Beautifully furnished, large, sunny office and shared waiting room. 24/7 access, handicap compliant, elevator and free abundant parking. Easy commute to/from Rte.2, Rte.128, and Rte.3. Next to Starbucks. Priced at $1300. plus $40 electric per month. Contact: Noelle Cappella (617) 875-8717 nmapp22@gmail.com

PREMIER PSYCHIATRIC SUITE 1180 BEACON STREET, BROOKLINE

Full time offices available. $1400 - $1800. Large W/R; kitchen, central A/C, parking. Derek Polonsky derekpolonsky@gmail.com

LEXINGTON- Beautiful, Large Private Therapist Office to Sublet at Custance Place (76 Bedford St, Lexington)
requires that insurers and PBMs adhere to a 48-hour appeal process. MPS has filed House Bill (HB) 941/Senate Bill (SB) 677: An Act Relative to Utilization Review

This bill:

- Eliminates prior authorization for:
  - Generic medications that are not controlled substances
  - Generic and brand medications after six months of adherence (excludes controlled substances)
  - Dosage changes of the same medication
  - Therapeutic duplication if the treatment was previously approved
  - Long-acting injectable antipsychotics
  - Generic and brand name FDA-approved treatments for OUD
- Requires that insurers and PBMs adhere to a 48-hour appeal process
- Requires denials and denial reviews be conducted by physicians in the same or similar specialty

The MPS Council and its Healthcare Systems and Finance Committee are working closely with our Legislative Consultant, Lisa Simonetti, to track the progress of HB 941/SB 677, and to review and make recommendations to MPS membership about supporting additional bills proposed by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the other groups.

Your MPS is diligently taking the lead to reform PA and restore our professional integrity and autonomy to enhance the care of our patients and their families. We will notify you at once regarding any legislative progress.

John A. Fromson, MD, DLFAAP
President, Massachusetts Psychiatric Society

References
2. Prior Authorization and Utilization AMA (ama-assn.org)

For more information, please send a CV and letter of interest to Steve Jones, Director of Recruiting, at Jonesst@Vinfen.org.

Vinfen's competitive offer package includes:
- Competitive salary and sign on bonus
- Ability to accrue up to five weeks of time off within first year
- Time off to attend conferences
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance for employees working 20 hours or more
- Flexible Spending Reimbursement Accounts (Health and Dependent care)
- Company paid Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Voluntary Term, Whole Life, Accident and Critical Care Insurance
- Retirement savings programs, including a fully funded, employer sponsored retirement plan and an employee funded 403(b) plan
- Malpractice insurance offered with no tail
- $1,000 in reimbursement for continuing medical education credits
- Reimbursement for cost of renewing licenses
- Virtual New Employee Orientation and Virtual Training
- Laptop and iPhone provided

For more information, please send a CV and letter of interest to Steve Jones, Director of Recruiting, at Jonesst@Vinfen.org.

Vinfen has been a leading nonprofit human services organization that "transforms lives" by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations and communities to learn, thrive and achieve their goals. To learn more about Vinfen, and/or to apply to this or other Vinfen positions, please visit our website at www.vinfen.org/ careers.

Vinfen is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status.

Massachusetts Psychiatric Society • PO Box 549154 • Waltham, MA 02454-9154

781-237-8100 • Fax: 781-464-4896 • Email: mps@mms.org • www.psychiatry-mps.org

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781-237-8100 • Fax: 781-464-4896 • Email: mps@mms.org • www.psychiatry-mps.org
AMBULATORY PSYCHIATRY POSITION

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a 690+ bed tertiary care teaching affiliated with Harvard Medical School, is recruiting for a part time ambulatory psychiatrist to provide general psychiatry and psycho-pharmacology services at our flagship community health center in Dorchester. The successful candidate for this position may be considered for a Harvard Medical School appointment at the rank of Instructor. Part-Time, commensurate with experience, achievements and teaching contributions.

The Bowdoin Street Health Center is a multi-specialty practice serving the Bowdoin-Geneva community. We provide comprehensive primary care and behavioral health services, and are staffed by 12 medical providers as well as five clinical social workers and two part-time psychologists. Our behavioral health department is highly collaborative and is very committed to meeting patient need. In addition, the behavioral health department is fully integrated within the health center as a whole and there is ample opportunity for close collaboration with the primary care providers.

Founded in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood in 1972 by community residents, Bowdoin Street Health Center remains focused on providing outstanding medical care while maintaining a tradition of working with residents to identify and meet their unique health needs. The mission of the health center is to provide excellent, compassionate care to our patients and support the health of the entire community.

Recognizing how social and economic factors in the community can also influence an individual’s health status, Bowdoin Street actively engages with community organizations and public entities to prevent violence improve access to healthy, affordable foods and promote behavioral health.

The region offers a plethora of recreational activities allowing for a professional career and a fulfilling personal life.

Applications are made online at the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society’s website. Please respond to requisition #201385. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions or any other characteristic protected by law.
The Case of One Little Pill and One Court’s Big Agenda

While I sat in the courtroom, I witnessed a heated debate between the two main characters: the FDA and Danco Laboratories. The FDA, represented by its Director of Risk Management, was advocating for the approval of mifepristone. Danco Laboratories, represented by its President, was seeking its approval to market the drug. The debate centered around the safety and efficacy of mifepristone, a medication used for medical abortion.

But suddenly, I found myself off-guard. A ClearBlue® pregnancy test commercial appeared on the screen. It was a common sight for me, but this time it brought a smile to my face. I watched as three different women from different walks of life experienced the same reaction to their test results. The worried college student in her dorm room, the concerned wife at home, and the busy professional woman on the go all glanced at their results.

A domino effect of happiness and relief swept across each woman’s face. They all received the test results they had hoped for and instantaneous relief from their anxiety. But what if one of those women received an unexpected result? What if the woman had a positive test result, and what would she do next?

Currently, 24.5 million women of reproductive age in the US have the capacity to become pregnant. According to the FDA, as of last year, there were five deaths associated with mifepristone use for every one million people in the US since 2000. To clarify, that is a death rate of 0.00005, making mifepristone safer than some common prescription medications. According to a 2001 report on US rates of anaphylaxis, penicillin, a common antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections, is four times more likely than mifepristone to cause life-threatening allergic reactions. Additionally, in a 2000 report published in the Journal of American Medicine, the risk of death by taking Viagra, a medication used to treat erectile dysfunction, is nearly 10 times more than mifepristone.

Meeting Your PRMS® Team

Our psychiatry-specific professional liability insurance program is designed with your professional reputation and are dedicated to providing you with the best possible service.

RESIDENT FELLOW MEMBER
CORNER
Lily Millen, D.O.

This past April, the right of 64.5 million women of reproductive age in the US to access medical abortion, the most commonly used method of abortion in the US, was catapulted into a court of appeal. A federal judge in Texas questioned the constitutionality of the FDA’s changes in 2016, which dates back to 2000. Mifepristone is one of two drugs used for medication abortion, approved by the FDA. Mifepristone blocks prostaglandin, a hormone necessary for pregnancy to progress. Taken with the medication misoprostol, the two-drug combination is used for medication abortion through 10 weeks gestation. Misoprostol is less effective and more difficult for individuals to tolerate if used alone. In 2020, medication abortion accounted for 53% of all facility-based abortions in the US.

Mifepristone has been used by over five million people with the capacity to become pregnant. According to the FDA, of the five deaths associated with mifepristone use for every one million people in the US since 2000, to clarify, that is a death rate of 0.00005, making mifepristone safer than some common prescription medications. According to a 2001 report on US rates of anaphylaxis, penicillin, a common antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections, is four times more likely than mifepristone to cause life-threatening allergic reactions. Additionally, in a 2000 report published in the Journal of American Medicine, the risk of death by taking Viagra, a medication used to treat erectile dysfunction, is nearly 10 times more than mifepristone.

Sitting with this data, a notable and fiery chain of events ensued in our legal system:

• Less than two hours after the Texas judge issued his ruling, a federal judge in Washington state opposed the FDA’s ruling and blocked the FDA’s approval of mifepristone. The judge issued his ruling, a federal judge in Washington state opposed the FDA’s approval of mifepristone. The judge issued his ruling, a federal judge in Washington state approved the FDA’s approval of mifepristone.

• The FDA and Dancro Laboratories (DLC) appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (5th Cir.) requesting a temporary hold, or stay, to allow access to mifepristone pending the appeal.

• The 5th Cir. blocked the implementation of the FDA’s changes in 2016, which allowed mailing of mifepristone.

Effectively, the 5th Cir. decision took the generic abortion drug off the market, requiring a reconsideration of the law.
Prior Authorization Reform

Prior authorization (PA), obtaining approval from health insurers before performing a billable service, has been touted by third party payors as a cost-control process. The a priori assumption is that despite our years of pre-professional schooling, medical training, licensing/re-licensing, board eligibility/certification/re-certification, and— for those of us in institutional settings— initial credentialing/re-credentialing, as a group we are incapable of making clinically sound and appropriate cost conscious decisions regarding the care of our patients sans fiscal oversight by health plans.

The current system strikes at the heart of our professional autonomy, affecting our self-esteem and ability to focus on the most important aspects of diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of services in the context of patient centered, collaborative, and trauma informed care. As if time devoted to communication with patients, families, pharmacy, as well as documentation requirements, are not enough, how much patient care time and a trajectory to health has been derailed by having to wait for PA. We also place our patients in a very uncomfortable loyalty bind and jeopardize our professional credibility when we have to tell our patients that their health insurance carrier is questioning our diagnosis and treatment plan and we must wait for their approval before a specific medication or test can be ordered.

A December 2021 AMA survey of more than 1,000 practicing physicians reveals that PA continues to harm patients and burden practices. The AMA has underscored that prior authorization is overused and existing processes present significant administrative and clinical concern. “An AMA-convened working group of 17 state and specialty medical societies, national provider associations and patient representatives developed best practices for prior authorization and other utilization management requirements by identifying the most common provider and patient concerns.”

The Prior Authorization and Utilization Management 21 Reform Principles address:

- Clinical validity

Most relevant for us, APA district branches across the country, including MPS, are also pushing for PA reforms using APA designed model legislation as a template. It prohibits PA for generic prescription drugs, on any drugs that have been prescribed without interruption for six months, and on any long-acting injectable medication. It also requires that all coverage denials be made by a physician in the same specialty as the prescriber, that all denials be eligible for an expedited internal appeal process, and that the

(continued on page 4)