

State Legislative Spotlight

- In 2020, the AAN focused state advocacy efforts on the five states with the highest AAN member count and one small state including: California, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. In 2021, the AAN is expanding efforts to include Illinois, Ohio, and Texas. The AAN is primarily tracking legislative issues related to telehealth and scope of practice in these states, as well as ad hoc issues affecting neurology in any state as they arise.
 - [Use this interactive tool to track bills on telehealth and scope of practice in your state](#)
- The number of states that have adopted the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact stands at 26, **with 6 states having recently introduced legislation (MO, OH, OR, NJ, NY, TX)**. The compact offers an expedited licensing process for physicians interested in practicing in multiple states [\[link\]](#).
- **Telehealth state resources**
 - [Center for Connected Health Policy](#)
 - [State Telehealth Legislation and Regulation Tracking](#)
 - [Current State Laws](#)
 - [Manatt Health COVID-19 Update](#)
 - [Tracking Telehealth Changes State-by-State in Response to COVID-19](#)
 - [Federation of State Medical Boards](#)
 - [U.S. States and Territories Modifying Requirements for Telehealth in Response to COVID-19](#)
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many states have implemented new policies related to medical liability:
 - [Protect Patients Now - State Tracking Chart](#)
 - [Protect Patients Now - State Map](#)
 - [AMA background information](#)
- The AAN joined letters led by the American Psychiatric Association urging adoption of state level laws and regulations to make permanent telehealth flexibilities beyond the pandemic. These letters were sent to the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
- The AAN joined a letter led by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine to state dental boards regarding the scope of practice of dentists in relation to the testing, diagnosis, and treatment of patients who have obstructive sleep apnea.

- At the end of 2020, Congress enacted the No Surprises Act, a law to protect patients from out-of-network medical bills. The federal law will go into effect on January 1, 2022, and many groups are working to understand how the federal law will interact with state laws. More information:
 - [Overview of new federal law](#)
 - [Map of current state laws](#)

Capitol Hill Spotlight

To stay up to date on what's happening in Washington DC and how it impacts neurology, [read the Capitol Hill Report](#).

- The AAN continues to closely monitor as the administration works to fill out President Biden's senior health care leadership team. Biden recently announced that [he will nominate Chiquita Brooks-LaSure](#) as administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Brooks-LaSure's nomination along with the nominees for secretary of Health and Human Services, surgeon general, and several additional key posts are subject to Senate confirmation. Appointees for a number of other key positions that do not require Senate confirmation have been named, including the national coordinator for Health Information Technology, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.
- The AAN sent an [action alert](#) this week urging the Senate to take action to avoid the **impending Medicare sequester cut**, a 2% across the board reduction set to go into effect on April 1 after being delayed due to the pandemic. **As a result, on March 25 the Senate voted to extend the delay through December 31.** Now, the House will need to pass the Senate language when it returns from its Easter recess in mid-April. CMS is expected to hold off on processing April claims until then to avoid making reduced payments.
- Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN) and Rep. Welch (D-VT) reintroduced the Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act, a bill to **allow Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices in Medicare Part D.** [AAN President Jim Stevens, MD, FAAN was quoted in the press release.](#)
- The AAN joined 202 other organizations on a [letter](#) led by the American Academy of Pediatrics in support of \$50 million in funding to the CDC and NIH in FY2022 to conduct **public health research on firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.**
- The AAN has published [Position Statement: COVID-19 Vaccination](#), expressing confidence in the clinical trials of the two COVID-19 vaccines and the Food and Drug Administration data evaluation processes and supporting the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The AAN strongly encourages that all eligible neurology health care providers become vaccinated against COVID-19 and support vaccination for all patients who qualify. The AAN strongly supports efforts to ensure all patients have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination.

AAN Membership Update

- **Use Your Data to Power Your Practice:** The 2021 Neurology Compensation and Productivity Survey is now open to US AAN members. US members can benchmark their value using the largest neurology compensation survey in the United States and receive free access to the full data dashboard—a \$500 value member value—if they complete the survey by May 14, 2021. Enhancements have been made to the survey to save time and help members get the most out of the data. [Complete the survey](#) and encourage others to do so as well.

- **AAN Annual Meeting:** This Annual Meeting will be different from any other. Block time for April 17–22 on your calendar now for this exciting, reimagined experience with an array of education courses, scientific sessions, Experiential Learning Areas, booths, networking areas, plenary sessions, an awards theater, posters, Industry Therapeutics Updates, exhibit hall, and more. In addition, numerous networking opportunities such as our nightly entertainment, networking sessions, and interactive chats will give you a chance to connect with presenters and other attendees. [Register today!](#)
 - Anthony S. Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, and Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, FAAN, director of the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke, will headline the [Hot Topics Plenary Session](#) at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 17, 5:00 p.m. ET. The plenary session will cover the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts on both the general public and the neurologic community, as well as updates on vaccines, treatments, and research priorities. [Register now.](#)
- **Upcoming AAN Conferences:** Save the date for the 2021 Sports Concussion Conference, which will take place virtually Friday, July 30, and Saturday, July 31. Stay tuned for more information about both the Advanced Practice Provider Neurology Education Series and Fall Conference, which will occur later this year.
- **New Synapse Community:** A new Quality and Safety SynapseSM online community is now available to all AAN members. The goals of this community are to provide a forum to share quality improvement results, successes, and evidence-based best practices and tools; shape a culture of quality and foster quality improvement collaboration within organizations; and serve as a venue for getting more people interested in participating in quality improvement. [Learn more or join now.](#)

2021 State Meetings

State	Meeting Date
Alabama Academy of Neurology	August 21
Arizona Neurological Society	March 27
California Neurology Society	February 26-28
Colorado Society of Neurology	TBD
Florida Society of Neurology	September 24-26
Georgia Neurological Society	TBD
Hawaii Neurological Society	TBD
Illinois State Neurological Society	TBD
Indiana Neurological Society	April 9
Iowa Neurological Association	October 16
Commonwealth Neurological Society	TBD
Maine Neurological Society	TBD
Massachusetts Neurologic Association	March 27
New York State Neurological Society	TBD
North Carolina Neurological Society	February 21-22
Pennsylvania Neurological Society	TBD
South Carolina Neurological Association	TBD
Texas Neurological Society	July 22-23
Virginia Neurological Society	TBD
Washington State Neurological Society	TBD
Wisconsin Neurological Society	October 16

Request Speakers and Promote YOUR Meeting

- Ready to start promoting your upcoming meeting? Email Grant Niver at gniver@aan.com to send an email blast promoting your meeting to all AAN members in your state!
 - As you put together the agenda for your 2021 meetings, consider taking advantage of the AAN's sponsored speaker program! We have expert speakers on topics such as advocacy, the Axon Registry, practice management, quality measures, telemedicine, and much more.
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