



PRACTICE UPDATE FROM THE CEO

Dear Valued CIMA Patient:

I am writing to you today to share some news regarding changes and enhancements to our practice which may be of interest to you. Some of you aware that our practice often hires new and younger physician assistants who show exemplary aptitude for Internal Medicine. We always hire them with the intention they will stay long-term and extend the care of our physicians to CIMA patients. Unfortunately, we sometimes must say goodbye to those whose families are still developing and personal circumstances take them in a different direction. It is with mixed feelings I notify you that Jasmine Taborn, PA-C and Lauren Brunner, PA-C are transitioning to new cities and their families and personal lives are taking them away from our practice. We wish both well.

While we rely on, respect, and encourage the care you receive by our physician assistants this change gives you the opportunity to connect with one of CIMA's attending physicians – who are, after all, ultimately responsible for all aspects of your care and treatment in our medical practice. If you have been followed primarily by Jasmine or Lauren, then please contact the front desk staff, and arrange your next visit with one of our five attending physicians. You certainly may also see one of our physician assistants (Sean Bodin, Neelam Parikh, Kristie McDowell, or James Sapp) - just contact the office and the administrative staff will be happy to assist you. Those patients already with appointments scheduled in April 2024 will be contacted by our staff and a new appointment and provider will be assigned to ensure there are not gaps in your care – which is our top priority.

In other practice news we are pleased to welcome Doreen Addison, PA-C who joined us in December 2023. Doreen is working full time and completing a doctoral program as well. She has already been generating such positive patient feedback and we are truly happy to have her on the team. We also have recently signed a new physician assistant who will be joining our medical staff in the summer to fill the remaining slot vacated by Jasmine and Lauren and to ensure our patients have access to care when they need it most. Speaking of access to care, CIMA has continued to respond to the area's behavioral health crisis and grow our patient services in that department as well.

I am pleased to report that I have authorized the hiring of specialty psychiatric nurse practitioners who will work to enhance patient access to critical mental health treatment for our practice and other patients referred to our behavioral health

department from surrounding groups. Also, you should know our behavioral health department has been selected by the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Washington, D.C. as a training site for their doctoral students who are gaining valuable clinical experience as they complete their final phase of their program. We congratulate our very own Dr. William Jordan and his team for their leadership and education of these doctoral candidates which has already been a well-received addition to our patient service team and improved much needed patient access.

Through the combined efforts of our practice leadership team, we are working hard to bring some additional patient enhancements to CIMA this year to ease the burden on our patients trying to obtain testing in a timely manner. We are currently launching state of the art and cost effective advanced cardiac home monitoring for patients experiencing cardiac rhythm concerns who will be able to obtain immediate access to testing and avoid potentially unnecessary and costly specialty referrals unless absolutely needed. That program should be fully operational by the beginning of May 2024. As a second and exciting enhancement, and through the leadership of one of our senior physician assistants, Sean Bodin, PA-C, we are anticipating the addition of Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) later this year. POCUS is state of the art technology that again, offers our patients more efficient and cost-effective access to care that will aid treatment decisions right in the office on often more complex medical cases. Additionally, and often less noticed, has been our work with population health and ensuring access to care for our patients coming out of area hospitals from recent illnesses (Transitional Care Management). These were enhancements put in during the pandemic. They are very important for our most ill patients, and I am so proud of the work our team has done behind the scenes facilitating those visits and ensuring needed patient access.

Lastly, I am so thankful and humbled for all the continued recognition of our physicians who again this year, some for their 12th straight year, have been recognized by NOVA Magazine's prestigious list of Top Doctors. This unsolicited accolade reminds us that our work is being recognized and drives us to constantly strive for better care and services in our area. CIMA continues to be an independent practice leader for healthcare in our area by continued leadership roles in major boards and committees concerning important healthcare issues. In addition, we are marking the 4th season we are contracted by the Washington Nationals for their healthcare needs of their professional baseball players in our local region. With our growing practice, enhancements in technology and new advances for our patient's with in-office direct testing and advanced cardiac monitoring, we are reinvesting in our patients and ourselves each year. We are thankful for our physicians and our experienced physician assistants who continue to lead new advances in our care and recommit themselves every day to our core mission of taking care of our patients.

Most Sincerely,



Kenneth M. McDowell, D.O.

Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine
President & CEO