

February 2, 2023



## CRA Membership E-blast

Hello Shanna

The California Rheumatology Alliance remains dedicated to providing updated news and resources to our membership. We appreciate and encourage any feedback to assist in our service to our members. What do YOU want us to talk about? We'd love for these newsletters to be used as an opportunity for us all to learn from each other, so if there's anything specific you're interested in learning more about from other people involved with the California Rheumatology Alliance, let us know by emailing [info@calrheum.org](mailto:info@calrheum.org).

Visit our Website

## 2023 CRA MEMBERSHIP DUES

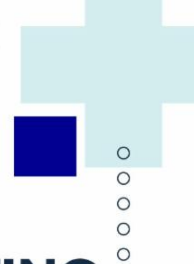
The 2022 CRA Annual Membership is open for renewal! Pay your annual dues easily online for exclusive access to special membership benefits such as discounted rates on your meeting registration, tickets for amusement parks, movies, and stage shows as well as curated information surrounding news and policies that directly impact the rheumatology community.

Pay your 2023 CRA Membership Dues now

## SAVE THE DATE: 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

### SAVE THE DATE CRA 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

*April 28 - 30, 2023  
Marina del Rey Marriott  
Marina del Rey, CA*



### CRA SPEAKERS



FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023  
**GARY  
FELDMAN, MD**  
SPEAKER



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023  
**DIANA  
GIRNITA, MD**  
SPEAKER

Practice Manager Meeting  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023  
8:00AM - 5:00PM



# 2023 CRA 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

at the 40th Carl Pearson Symposium

Marina del Rey Marriott | 4100 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292



APRIL  
28-29,  
2023

Marina del Rey,  
California

Visit [www.calrheum.org](http://www.calrheum.org) for the meeting agenda, a list of speakers and hotel accommodations

Keep checking the CRA website as more information becomes available

## 2022 MIPS EUC APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

CMS has extended the 2022 MIPS EUC Application deadline to **March 3rd, 2023 8:00 P.M. ET** for individuals, groups, virtual groups, and APM Entities citing COVID-19 as the triggering event. Applying for this hardship allows you to request reweighting for one or more of the MIPS performance categories to 0% using your Quality Payment Program (QPP) Portal account. Your practice will be responsible for maintaining supporting documentation that shows how COVID-19 has impacted your practice for the 2022 performance year.

**Please note:** CMS is only extending this hardship application deadline for MIPS Eligible clinicians, groups, virtual groups, and APM Entities that are citing COVID-19 as the reason they are unable to collect data for an extended period of time.

If you are approved for this hardship and submit data for 2 or more of MIPS performance categories, you will receive a final MIPS score based on the data that was submitted.

For more information, please review **CMS' 2022 Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception Application Guide**. For MIPS eligible clinicians participating as a group, virtual group, APM Entity, or other individuals who were not automatically identified based on their practice's location and have been affected by COVID-19, can apply for the MIPS extreme and uncontrollable circumstances hardship now until March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 8:00 P.M. ET through your QPP account. Please note, that if you are approved for this hardship but submit data for 2 or more of the MIPS performance categories, you will receive a final score based on the data that was submitted.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### What is new in CRA advocacy:

Bills are currently being introduced for the 2023 session. The deadline for bills to be introduced is February 17<sup>th</sup>. To date there have been more than 600 bills introduced and there will be another 1,500+ bills that will be introduced over the next two weeks!

This year will be another busy one for CRA advocacy. CRA is co-sponsoring legislation with the Hemophilia Council of California and Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute to address the growing problems with accumulator programs being put in place by health plans. These accumulator programs restrict a patient from using amounts provided to them through co-pay assistance programs to count towards the patient's out of pocket health insurance requirements. We are currently speaking with a few Legislators

about authoring the bill idea so at this point there is no bill number. We are expecting more bills related to prior authorization improvements and possible pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reform measures. Next month will have a list of what bills have been introduced that impact rheumatologists and your patients.

We are asking CRA members to share patient stories related to problems with accumulator programs. If you have any patient stories or are interested in learning more about CRA advocacy efforts, please email Tim Madden at [madden@mqadvocacy.com](mailto:madden@mqadvocacy.com) or Shanna Castro at [susui@calrheum.org](mailto:susui@calrheum.org)

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