



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Chairwoman  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: "No Time to Lose: Solutions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in the States" Hearing Testimony**

Dear Chairwoman DeGette and Ranking Member Griffith,

On behalf of our member medical group practices, the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) writes to express our commitment to vaccinating Americans in an expeditious and efficient manner. MGMA would like to submit the following written testimony to offer the physician practice perspective in relation to the "No Time to Lose: Solutions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in the States" hearing scheduled for Feb. 2, 2021.

With a membership of more than 60,000 medical practice administrators, executives, and leaders, MGMA represents more than 15,000 physician group practices ranging from small private medical practices to large national health systems representing more than 350,000 physicians.

Despite possessing the ability to identify and inoculate vulnerable patients, states have largely not leveraged physician practices in vaccine rollout efforts. In a MGMA [survey](#) conducted last week, 85 percent of independent practices and 45 percent of hospital or health system-owned practices actively seeking the COVID-19 vaccine for their patients reported having obtained none to date. Of the practices able to obtain the vaccine, the majority reported only receiving enough to vaccinate 1 percent or less of their patients.<sup>1</sup> Many physician groups have been approved by their states to distribute the vaccine, but as the survey results indicate, they have received little to no inventory. Patients are flooding their doctors' office phone lines questioning why their physicians cannot vaccinate them.

As trusted providers in the community, physician practices are uniquely situated to proactively identify and deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to their eligible patients. Current vaccine efforts are haphazard at best

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<sup>1</sup> This MGMA survey was conducted Jan. 21-24, 2021, with a total of 403 responses from medical group practices that are already or planning to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to their patients.

and rely on a passive first come first served approach with the public rushing to sign up for vaccines when scant supply becomes available. This favors patients who can advocate for themselves or have family members able to do the same. Yet medical practices already have patient relationships and experience vaccinating patients for influenza and other conditions. They have trained staff at the ready. Practices have valuable information at their fingertips that inpatient hospitals, chain drug stores, and state health departments do not, including detailed data on patient demographics, preexisting conditions, and risk factors. Furthermore, in a time of uncertainty and misinformation, patients are looking to their own physicians as a trusted source for information on vaccine safety and efficacy.

We strongly believe medical groups have a critical role to play in COVID-19 vaccination efforts due to their trusted role as providers within the community and ability to identify vulnerable patients. As the voice for our country's medical group practices, we ask Congress and the Administration to support and leverage group practices in future vaccine distribution strategies. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Ernst [cernst@mgma.org](mailto:cernst@mgma.org) or 202-293-3450.

Regards,

/s/

Anders Gilberg, MGA  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs