



# Commission on Quality and Practice 2021 Annual Report

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## AAFP Commission on Quality and Practice

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- The AAFP Commission on Quality and Practice (CQP) works to improve the practice environment of family physicians. The CQP studies and develops recommendations, policies, and programs, for family medicine related to healthcare delivery systems, performance measurement, practice redesign and quality improvement, health IT, practice management, private sector advocacy, physician payment, and practice environment.

In the 2021 term, topics discussed include long-term telehealth and telemedicine policy and how it influences continuity of care, the practice of family medicine in various environments, and health equity; the relationship between the electronic medical record and pharmacy services; communication between pharmacies and family medicine in vaccine administration; and the impact of fee-for-service billing/reimbursement policy changes on employed family physicians. The CQP also received updates on COVID-19 vaccine implementation, the American Rescue Plan Act (aka COVID-19 relief law), and ongoing health reform efforts in Congress.

- **Jonathan Staloff, MD, MSc (Resident Commissioner):** Serving as a resident commissioner on CQP was truly an extraordinary learning experience. It was a privilege being able to learn from so many family physicians around the country, and appreciate how the same policy has such disparate impacts on family medicine practices as that policy intersects with differences in primary population served, rural vs urban location, employed vs privately owned practice, and area of the country. It helped me gain a nuanced appreciation for just how special the footprint of family medicine is in serving patients and communities throughout the United States, and for how even though we as family physicians have shared collective interests, no two practice environments truly are the same. I was especially privileged to serve on CQP as family physicians navigate the innumerable challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. One in particular that was explored was the long-term implications of telemedicine policy. I was fortunate to serve alongside our medical student commissioner, Dr. Eli Eisman, on the Telemedicine Policy Working Group, where we helped influence the AAFP's initial policy and advocacy strategy for long-term telemedicine policy with a focus on its impact on patients and communities, the health of primary care family medicine practices, and health equity. I'm grateful for the experience to serve on CQP and the mentorship I received.

- **Eli Eisman, DO, PhD (Medical Student Commissioner):** Sitting as the student representative to the Commission on Quality and Practice was a remarkable educational opportunity. I was able to participate in developing policies that directly impact the future of Family Medicine. As a graduating medical student, I was inspired by the commitment exhibited by the commission members. I learned from each of their unique experiences, demonstrating how they as a family physician around the country rise to meet the specific needs of the communities in which they serve and broadly reinforcing the importance of the longitudinal physician-patient partnership in primary care medicine. Participating in a national leadership role with the AAFP during a global pandemic typified the distinctive challenges experienced by FPs this year in being able to provide meaningful care to their patients at a distance. More importantly, the moment also exhibited the creative responses implemented by the Family Medicine community to overcome these obstacles. Recognizing the growing dialogue surrounding social change, led to inspiring conversations about the role of FPs advocating for environmental, economic, health justice and the importance of social determinants of health. As I move into residency, I will continue to take the experiences from this past year with me and work towards continued growth of Family Medicine. During my appointment we worked on efforts towards democratizing the ways in which family physicians engage with and promote the well-being of their patients, are compensated fairly for their services, and advocate for their profession.

*Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit [aafp.org](http://aafp.org).*