

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Values. Ethics. Advocacy.

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SDSMA statement on misinformation about how COVID-19 patients are counted

SDSMA statement attributable to Benjamin Aaker, MD, SDSMA president:

Physicians and other health care workers have risked their lives throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to do so to treat their patients. We are disappointed over remarks suggesting that physicians and other health care providers are trying to profit from the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is true there is additional reimbursement for COVID-19-related care for some patients in some settings, these additional funds help but do not fully cover the costs of care. That is why so many hospitals and providers are operating in the red despite the additional funding received through the CARES Act. With South Dakota's COVID-19 related hospitalizations doubling since the start of October, physicians and other health care workers are working tirelessly to provide the best possible care to our patients. We continue to urge all South Dakotans to adhere to the COVID-19 mitigation measures to include wearing a mask, observing a 6-foot distance from others, and washing hands often.