

Upcoming Webinar: When Physicians Become Patients



We're pleased to share an upcoming educational opportunity from our partners at the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP), focused on an important, and often under-discussed, area of clinical practice: caring for physicians when they themselves become patients. This interactive webinar will provide practical, evidence-informed guidance to help clinicians navigate the unique clinical, ethical, and interpersonal considerations involved in treating physician-patients. Participants will gain actionable tools to support high-quality care while managing the complexities that arise when professional boundaries and peer relationships intersect.

Description

When a physician becomes a patient, the physician-patient and the treating clinician often discover a complicated care dynamic. The physician-patient brings extensive medical knowledge, professional identity, and unique vulnerabilities that shape the care experience. The treating physician encounters an uncommon clinical dynamic in which the ethical, emotional, and interpersonal dimensions differ significantly from their typical patient relationship.

This educational program equips physicians and other health care professionals to navigate these distinct dynamics with confidence and sensitivity. Attendees will acquire strategies that build trust, honor confidentiality, and engage the physician-patient in care that meets clinical needs and professional realities.

When Physicians Become Patients: Providing Care for General Medical, Mental Health, and Substance Use Disorders

- Wednesday, September 23, 2026
- 1:00–3:00 PM (Eastern Time)
- 2 CME Credits | Free for FSPHP Members; \$50 for Non-Members

Speakers

- Michael J. Baron, MD, MPH, DFASAM, FAPA – Immediate Past President, FSPHP; Medical Director, Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician’s Health Program
- Chris Bundy, MD, MPH, FASAM – Chief Medical Officer, FSPHP; Executive Medical Director, Washington Physicians Health Program
- Paul H. Earley, MD, DFASAM – Medical Director Emeritus, Georgia Professional Health Program
- Lisa Merlo, PhD, MPE – Co-Chair, FSPHP Research Committee; Professor of Psychiatry, University of Florida; Director of Research, Professionals Resource Network
- Alexis Polles, MD, FASAM – Medical Director Emerita, Professionals Resource Network

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