



WIDE RANGING ISSUES

CMS resolutions bound for ISMS House of Delegates

AS OF PRESS TIME, CMS THIRD DISTRICT delegates had authored nearly 30 resolutions for the ISMS House of Delegates meeting in April. The broad range of topics included public health concerns—smoking cessation and prevention; reducing trans fats; nursing home safety—to patient and physician advocacy issues—standard healthcare benefits, the corporate practice of medicine, access to care and Medicare.

Together, the state districts authored a total of nearly 90 resolutions; they address global warming and green initiatives; the flawed SGR; the media's harmful effects on

children and adolescents; and inadequate nurse staffing levels. Other resolutions are specific to Illinois, with two addressing the governor's recent proposal to fund expansion of health services, and the extreme delays in Medicaid claims payment. A CME course offered during the HOD meeting takes up the issue of state-based health system reform. Attorney General Lisa Madigan addresses the HOD and Congressman Jerry Weller (R-11) speaks at the Public Affairs Breakfast.

The HOD meets April 19-22 at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort. Third District Coverage will appear in our next issue.

EARNING CME

MCC offers new venue, courses

CMS HOSTED ITS 2007 ANNUAL MIDWEST Clinical Conference over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, offering attendees up to 16 CME credits and over 30 courses to choose from. Held at the upscale Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, the two-day conference offered a wide selection of educational sessions, networking opportunities and exhibits. The



Scott Warner, CMS

Physicians train on patient simulator during MCC.

course lineup included:

- The latest clinical advancements in diabetes, hypertension, allergy & asthma, mood



Physicians gained information from exhibitors.



Photos, Scott Warner, CMS

Physicians attend one of the more than 30 courses.



Keynote speaker Robert Hamilton, MD, discussed health savings accounts.

disorders, thrombosis, seizure disorders, women's and men's health, family practice and primary care.

- A new hospitalist track; general session on food-borne outbreaks, latest on Medicare pay-for-performance; an update on health savings accounts; healthcare disparities; hands-on workshop in the CMS patient safety simulation lab.
- Practice management sessions; managed care update; 2007 OSHA; and the latest on electronic medical records.

The most popular courses were Diabetes 2007 Update; Health Savings Accounts; and Medicare: Pay-for-Performance. Approximately 150 physicians attended the conference.

For CME on additional educational programs, visit our web site at www.cmsdocs.org, go to "Services," click "CME/Education," and click "Upcoming CME Activities."

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

chicago
CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY
medicine



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2007 OSHA Training Workshops

OSHA requires annual training for all healthcare workers with potential occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Attend the two-hour training course, update your exposure control plan and satisfy most of your yearly OSHA regulations! All seminars are taught by specialists in exposure control. The course is designed for clinicians and their staff. At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Identify the requirements of OSHA standards including blood-borne pathogens.
- Explain how the standards apply to them.
- Discuss and select safer needle devices.
- Identify safety and health hazards at their facility.

AUDIENCE: PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL OFFICE STAFF
Physicians can earn 2.0 CME credits

OSHA DATES & LOCATIONS

(FOR LOCATION AND DIRECTION INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.CMSDOCS.ORG)

- ◆ Friday, May 4: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 23: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, June 13: Oak Lawn Hilton, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, Sept. 13: Rush North Shore Medical Center, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, Sept. 21: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, Oct. 10: Oak Lawn Hilton, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, Oct. 26: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, Nov. 7: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration Fee (CMS member or staff person): \$59 – TWO HOUR Update
* Student materials & an exposure control plan are included with the registration fee.

Questions? Call Elvia Rubio at (312) 670-2550, ext. 338

ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

Recognizing young scientists of tomorrow



Liz Sidney, CMS

Chicago Public Schools Science Fair Second Place winner Izabela Murawel (shown with judge David A. Loiterman, MD) compared the ability of various hand soaps to kill bacteria.

CMS AWARDED SAVINGS BONDS TO FOUR participants in the Chicago Public Schools 57th An-

nual Science Fair for their outstanding entries in the Health Sciences category. David A. Loiterman, MD, vice chairman of the CMS Council, served as judge in the competition, selecting the winners from a field of 21 entries.

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY SAVINGS BOND WINNERS

First Place (\$400 Bond)

Alyssa Joiner—Chicago Agricultural Science H.S.
Mammalian Cell Cytotoxicity of Halomethane DBP

Second Place (\$200 Bond)

Izabela Murawel—Lincoln Park H.S.
Different Hand Soaps and Their Effect on E. coli

Honorable Mention (\$100 Each)

Ibrahim Kamal—Shurz H.S.
Which Drink Rehydrates Best?
Ekaterina Khramtsova—Kenwood H.S.
Proteasome Inhibitors in Cancer

The Science Fair was held March 23 at the Museum of Science and Industry.

SERVING YOU

Meet your new district meeting planner



Cox

CMS IS PLEASED TO WELCOME Jennifer Cox as the new meeting planner for all the districts. Her responsibilities include coordinating activities, helping to select venues, and confirming topics and speakers. She also organizes CMS visits to area medical staff meetings, in addition to managing the Chicago Gynecological Society and the Chicago Pediatric Society.

Jennifer has lived in Chicago approximately three years since completing her undergraduate work at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. At Aquinas, Jennifer earned a dual major in International Studies and French. In addition to her studies, she also participated on the Varsity Volleyball Team, Student Athletic Advisory Board, Programming Board, and France Study Abroad Program.

Contact info: jcox@cmsdocs.org or (312) 329-7324.

Help your patients understand Medicare Part D appeals

MANY MEDICARE PATIENTS WHO TRY TO FILL prescriptions and think they will be covered by their Medicare Part D plan don't know what to do if their pharmacist tells them their plan will not cover their prescriptions.

By law, pharmacists are supposed to either post by the pharmacy counter or hand information directly to patients about their Medicare Part D appeal rights, but this often does not occur. To help ensure that patients get the information they need, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recommends that physicians give Medicare patients a one-page description of their appeal rights along with their prescriptions.

Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/PharmacyNoticeApproved.zip> to download the flier.

Physicians having problems with Medicare Part D prescription drug plans are encouraged to report them to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services via e-mail to PRIT@cms.hhs.gov with a copy to PartD@ama-assn.org so the AMA will be aware of the situation.

Local groups to develop policy on hospital acquired infections

A BILL URGING THE CDC TO ADOPT GUIDELINES for universal testing of hospital patients for MRSA is working its way through the Illinois House of Representatives, and at the same time raising concerns among healthcare providers.

Some point to the added expense of universal screening and what to do with patients who test positive. They say isolating patients who test positive until they become negative, even if they are colonized and not infected with MRSA, could have an adverse effect on hospital bed availability and patient flow. The infectious disease specialty societies don't support universal screening, but rather recommend screening high-risk patients.

Another House bill creates the MRSA Screening and Reporting Act and amends the Hospital Licensing Act. Under these Acts, hospital programs will be required to identify all MRSA infections through active surveillance testing of at-risk patients, isolate infected patients, adhere to strict hygiene guidelines and record and report cases of infection to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

CMS, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, and the Illinois Hospital Association are currently developing positions on this issue. If you would like to voice your opinion on the issue, please contact Jim Tarrant at (312) 670-2550, ext. 321.

***Hospital liaisons needed
for legislative breakfasts and more.***

For information, please contact:

Ted Kanellakes (312) 670-2550.



WANTED

Surplus Medical Equipment

Do you have any surplus medical equipment that may be donated to the Chicago Medical Society



Regional Patient Simulation Center

The CMS Foundation is developing a multiple room simulation center in 8,000 sq. ft. of space in our downtown headquarters. We are seeking donations of all items that would be found in an OR, ER, ICU and patient room.

The center will serve as a training facility where healthcare professionals can learn and maintain clinical skills. It will serve all area hospitals and healthcare professionals, i.e., physicians, nurses, therapists and EMTs, for training and emergency preparedness.

We are also urging our members to please contact their hospitals and inquire about donations— anything and everything will be appreciated.

*For a complete list of items to donate please contact:
Michael Boros at 312-329-7326 or mboros@cmsdocs.org*



Photo courtesy of Stryker Medical

LIABILITY COVERAGE

CMS Agency "invaluable:" Dr. Chorba

IN TODAY'S LITIGIOUS TIMES, IT'S NICE to know there's a bright spot for physicians when it comes to malpractice insurance.

According to CMS member Thomas Chorba, MD, the CMS Insurance Agency has been invaluable to him. "I've been with them since the outset (2004)," the surgeon said. "The Agency has helped me schedule my application for ISMIE fellowship rewards so it wouldn't conflict with other rewards. And the Agency representative, Phil Seroczynski, has been most helpful as a resource person for insurance-related issues."

For information, contact Mr. Seroczynski or Dana Lucas at (312) 670-2550.

Physicians get go-ahead to continue NPI preparation

DUE TO STRONG ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY the AMA and others, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a 12-month contingency plan this month for compliance with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) deadline of May 23, a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirement.

The NPI will become the single, unique identifier for physicians, required for use when doing electronic business with all payers--including Medicare--and is intended to replace the multiple, proprietary identifiers physicians are assigned by health plans today with a single number. CMS recognizes that physicians and others are working hard to prepare for the use of the NPI, but much work remains. CMS also announced that if they receive an NPI complaint after May 23, 2008, when the contingency plan ends, they will consider "good faith" efforts to comply before any penalties are considered.

Despite the contingency plan, the AMA continues to encourage physicians to obtain their NPI by May 23, 2007, if they have not already done so. Payers, including Medicare, will have the option of allowing physicians to use their old identifiers on their electronic claims and other transactions for up to 12 months. Physicians should contact each of their payers to find out how they will apply this policy.

Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/ to learn more on the CMS contingency plan.

REDUCING THE DISPARITY

Chicago summit addresses local breast cancer death rates among African-American women



Panel Discussion: (from left to right) Sarah Gehlert, PhD, University of Chicago; Sheila Rogers, Y-ME of Illinois; Susan Nezda, MD, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Region V; Jackie Burgess-Bishop, MBA, FACHE, American Cancer Society; Marc Hurlbert, PhD, Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade; Ruta Rao, MD, Rush University Medical Center; Carol Ferrans, PhD, RN, University of Illinois at Chicago.

A call to action to improve outcomes in Chicago and nationally

LOCAL AND NATIONAL CANCER EXPERTS, healthcare providers, public health leaders and prominent breast cancer activists gathered in March at Rush University Medical Center to begin work on reducing the large disparity in breast cancer mortality between African-American and white women in Chicago.

The all-day summit tackled why African-American women continue to die of breast cancer at a much higher rate than white women, despite advances made to medical care during the last 20 years.

Response to Sinai Urban Health Institute Report

The Chicago Breast Cancer Summit is a response to the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) report issued in October 2006 that made local and national headlines about alarming disparities in breast cancer mortality rates between African-American women and white women in Chicago.

The breast cancer mortality rate for African-American women in Chicago is **68% higher** than that of white women, a disparity that cannot be explained by genetics alone. The lack of progress for African-American women is compounded by the fact that white women have a higher incidence of breast cancer. From 1998 to 2002, the breast cancer incidence rate for African-American women was 126 per 100,000; the incidence rate for white

women was 149 per 100,000. Thus, although white women get breast cancer at a rate that is 18% higher, African-American women die from it far more often.

The report dramatically illustrates that while advances in mammography screening and breast cancer treatment in Chicago have benefited white women over the last 22 years, these advances have not helped reduce breast cancer mortality for African-American women.

The report is a wake up call to the entire medical community that more needs to be done to improve breast cancer awareness, access, screening and treatment.

Three Hypotheses Explaining Disparities

During the summit, cancer care experts delivered presentations and participated in working sessions aimed at addressing the three possible causes for disparities.

- Differences in the quality of mammography screenings for African-American and white women: *Mammography screenings received by African-American women may be of lesser quality.*
- Differences in access to timely screenings and treatment: *African-American women may be receiving fewer mammograms in general and in a less than optimal sequence.*
- Differences in the quality of breast cancer treatment: *African-American women may receive delayed or less effective treatment once breast cancer is diagnosed.*

In addition to explaining the three hypotheses for disparities in breast cancer mortality rates, national cancer foundations and cancer experts explored how the Chicago Breast Cancer Summit can serve as a national model for other cities to address healthcare crises.

Several prominent public health leaders chair the Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force: Ruth Rothstein, former chief of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services; Sister Sheila Lyne, RSM, CEO of Mercy Medical Center and past commissioner of the Chicago Department of Health; and Donna Thompson, CEO of Access Community Health Network.

Chicago Medicine classified advertising form

Classified Rates (Per Insertion)	25 Words or less	26-40 words	41-60 words	61-80 words	81-100 words
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Office/building for sale/rent

EXCELLENT OAK BROOK LOCATION for doctor's office. Modern building with atrium; 1733 sq. ft. available. Landlord will assist in build-out and remodeling cost; \$23/sq. ft. Call (630) 279-5577.

FOR SALE, WELL-ESTABLISHED INTERNAL medicine practice in near western suburb, located across from hospital. Call evenings (773) 929-0618.

NEW 2,442 SQ.-FT. MEDICAL SUITE NOW available in the Little Village, the heart of Chicago's Mexican community: 26th St. near Pulaski Rd. Rare opportunity. Three-year-old construction. Furnished or unfurnished. Competitive rate. Call Alfonso for info or appointment: (773) 762-2888.

THIRTY YEARS BUSY, WELL-ESTABLISHED ob-gyn practice in Evergreen Park for sale. Turn key. Call (708) 229-9664 or (708) 408-8111.

OFFICE/MEDICAL SPACES FOR LEASE: 1) 1650 Maple Ave., Lisle—up to 3,850 sq. ft. Free-standing building, ample parking, five exam rooms with sinks, patient triage area, x-ray room available; **2)** 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights—up to 2,400 sq. ft. Contact Mark Singer via telephone at (312) 203-0011 or email MrMarkSinger@hotmail.com.

680 NORTH LAKE SHORE DR. OFFICE space—\$20 per sq. ft.; 2000 or 2600 sq. ft. Bargain Price! Act now. Call Carl: (312) 664-1877, ext. 224.

Personnel wanted

CHICAGO—HOME PHYSICIANS IS AN innovative multi-specialty practice focused on house calls to the elderly homebound. We are

looking for BE/BC primary care physicians to join our team of over 30 medical staff. Our business model allows you to practice medicine without the headaches of hospital rounds, exhausting call schedules, or the stress of running your own practice. Home Physicians is a leader and an innovator in house calls, visiting over 250 patients per day, and utilizing an EMR system. We offer excellent compensation with productivity bonuses, comprehensive malpractice insurance with tail coverage, and company cars for patient visits. For more info, please contact Scott Schneider at (773) 292-4800 or send CV to sschneider@homephysicians.com www.homephysicians.com.

MOBILE DOCTORS SEEKS FULL-TIME and part-time physicians to make house calls to the elderly and disabled. No on-call, night or weekend work. Transportation and a medical assistant are provided. Practice "hands-on" medicine. Fax CV to Michele at (312) 640-4496; or call (312) 617-2096.

PHYSICIANS NEEDED—FULL- OR PART-time. Downtown Chicago and suburban Chicago locations, northwestern and western suburbs. Ob-gyn for pregnancy termination, urology, gastroenterology, general surgery, family practice, plastic/cosmetic surgery, dermatology, and anesthesiology specialties wanted. Residents in Illinois programs welcome. Malpractice insurance available. No night duty. Hourly or salaried positions available. Mail CV to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; or fax to (847) 398-4585; or email: Tammy.s@covad.net.

CHICAGO—PHYSICIANS NEEDED, OB-GYN, full- or part-time. Pregnancy terminations, tubal sterilizations, and other services. Downtown and suburban Chicago locations. Full- or part-time or Saturdays only. Hourly and salaried positions available. No night duty. Daytime hours (early a.m. to early afternoon). Residents welcome, will train. Mal-

practice insurance available. Mail CV to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; call (847) 255-7400; or fax to (847) 398-4585; or email Tammy.s@covad.net

PHYSICIANS NEEDED—FULL- OR PART-time positions available. Downtown Chicago and suburban Chicago locations, northwestern and western suburbs. Anesthesiology, radiology, urology, family practice, gastroenterology, general surgery, plastic/cosmetic surgery, and dermatology specialties wanted. Residents in Illinois programs welcome. Malpractice insurance available. No night duty. Hourly or salaried positions available. Mail CV to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; or fax to (847) 398-4585; or email tammys@networkgci.net or melissak@networkgci.net.

PEDIATRICIAN—FIVE-DOCTOR PEDIATRIC office 45 minutes from downtown Chicago seeking part-time BC/BE pediatrician, salary plus benefits. Fax CV attn: Judy at (815) 729-9060.

Business services

PHYSICIAN'S ATTORNEY—EXPERIENCED and affordable physician's legal services including practice purchases; sales and formations; partnership and associate contracts; collections; licensing problems; credentialing; estate planning and real estate. Initial consultation without charge. Representing practitioners since 1980. Steven H. Jesser (800) 424-0060 or (847) 212-5620 (mobile); 790 Frontage Rd., Northfield, IL 60093.

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Wanted: Your articles for Chicago Medicine

Chicago Medicine is seeking clinical articles from Chicago-area physicians.

Please contact Scott Warner, co-editor: (312) 329-7336 swarner@cmsdocs.org.

Fine-dining a la CMS

*As a benefit of membership, all CMS members are considered members of
ChicaGourmets,
a premiere culinary organization with more than 50 fine-dining events a year.*

*For upcoming ChicaGourmets events, visit:
www.chicagourmets.org, or call Don Newcomb at (708) 383-7543.*

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