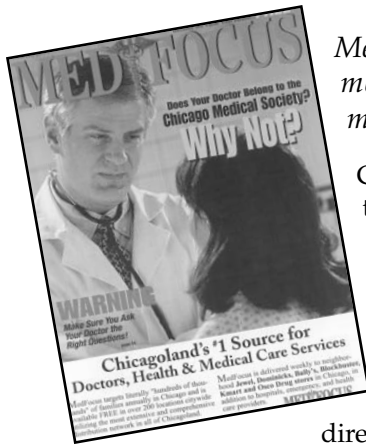




SIGN UP FOR MCC
SEE INSIDE

COMMUNICATING "GOOD MEDICINE"

New consumer publication seeks physician-authors



MedFocus links CMS members with community

CMS HAS AGREED to collaborate with a new Chicago-area consumer magazine, *MedFocus*, to offer medical information from local physicians directly to the public.

CMS encourages its members to provide "good medicine" by submitting articles to the publication. All physician-written articles will be accompanied by the author's photo, making the doctor's face familiar to patients in the community. (See last paragraph in this story for more author details.)

Monthly topics will cover the latest medicines, treatments, alternatives and cures. A section called "Ask the Doctor" will be written by a series of physicians whose special-

ties are related to the monthly topic. *MedFocus* also will include a directory of local physicians and health-care facilities. And there will be a section called "Healthy Living," offering recipes for delicious foods that promote good health.

The monthly publication will be available free to consumers at more than 200 locations throughout Chicago, including Jewel-Osco, Dominick's, Bally's, Blockbuster and K-Mart, as well as hospitals and health-care facilities.

The first issue will be launched in March 2001; you can pick up your premier copy at the Midwest Clinical Conference, Feb. 22-25, at Navy Pier.

MedFocus is a joint venture between Pathways 2000, a publisher with more than 40 years of medical and health-care experience, and Target Advertising Group, Inc., a local marketing company.

CMS will appoint an editorial advisory panel of physicians to review articles for accuracy and appropriateness.

For more information on submitting articles for publication in MedFocus, please contact Liz Sidney at CMS, (312) 329-7335 or email esidney@cmsdocs.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN

Insurer blocks payment; IDI to investigate

An interesting twist in the complicated world of billing

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE is now reviewing a case sent to it by the office of the CMS insurance ombudsman.

The situation involves a member physician with a private practice who also works at a clinic in a local teaching hospital. The trouble began last September when the Kentucky office of a major insurer stopped making payments.

(continued on next page)

INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN *(continued from page 1)*

When the billing staff investigated the problem, they discovered the insurance company had replaced the physician's corporate ID number, the number used for all of his private office billing, with the billing number the university hospital used for his clinic patients, and redirected payment accordingly.

Although the physician's staff finally untangled the puzzle, and the insurance office agreed to correct the problem, it never did. The insurer continued to replace the physician's corporate billing number with the university hospital's number, in spite of numerous calls and letters.

When CMS discussed the matter with officials from the Illinois Department of Insurance, they expressed interest in investigating and requested a written complaint from the physician's office. The physician has supplied the information, and we'll keep you advised of the outcome.

Please let us know if you are having similar problems. You may contact the office of the insurance ombudsman by phone (312) 670-2550, ext. 368; by fax (312) 670-3646; or by email at pjburns@cmsdocs.org

Mayor Daley names new health commissioner

MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY HAS NAMED DR. John L. Wilhelm to the position of Commissioner of the Department of Public Health. A doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Wilhelm has been deputy commissioner of the department since 1993. He joined the Department in 1990 after more than a decade with Project HOPE, an international public health program based in Washington, D.C. He replaces Sheila Lyne, who resigned to become president and chief executive officer of Mercy Hospital.

LOOKING AHEAD: MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Dr. Drueck brainstorms with CMS staff

CMS CONTINUES TO EXPLORE WAYS TO ADD value to your membership. To greet the new year President Charles Drueck, III, MD, met recently with senior staff to evaluate current member benefits and discuss new services we might add.

Those meeting with Dr. Drueck were: James Tarrant, executive director; Richard Bennett, associate executive director; Ted Kanellakes, CMS Service Bureau; Cecilia Merino, education; Tessa Rebmann, membership; and Scott Warner, communications.

Following are highlights of coming activities you'll be hearing more about:

- Expansion of CMS' Physicians Collective Bargaining Association.
- Creation of in-house job placement service for physicians and staff.
- MedFocus magazine. A consumer publication that will present a positive image of CMS physicians to the public.
- Focus groups to identify needs of different physician populations.

- Increased visibility of CMS insurance ombudsman P.J. Burns and her advocacy services.

- A CMS panel of experts to assist the media with scientific and/or medical stories.

- Legal updates in *Chicago Medicine*

- Physician and medical staff training in various locations throughout the city.

If you have suggestions or ideas about what CMS should be doing to increase member services, please call (312) 670-2550 or email us at cmsdocs.org

Committee looks at residents' needs

MEMBERS OF THE CMS AD HOC COMMITTEE on Residents met on Jan. 25 to discuss the best way to develop a resident branch within CMS. Members recommended holding educational seminars on entering practice and contract evaluation, offering placement assistance, mentor programs and a benefits survey. The meeting was held at Hines VA Hospital.

EARNING REVENUE

CMS to rent out first floor



The first-floor meeting space, site of many CMS programs, will soon be rented out to earn income for the Society.

IN AN EFFORT TO OFFSET DECLINING membership revenues, CMS has set mid 2001 as a target date to rent the under-used first floor of the medical Society building.

The first floor meeting space, which comprises 5,000 square feet, is currently used for Council meetings six times a year, monthly board and executive committee meetings, and occasional professional meeting events.

Rental income for the space is projected at anywhere from \$175,000 to \$200,000 yearly.

Renting the first floor would lower CMS' office cost to \$1.24 per sq. ft., down from \$8.28 per sq. ft.

Council meetings will be relocated to another site, possibly Maggiano's Restaurant, two blocks west of the CMS building, or to a local hospital. Catering and parking costs would remain the same. CMS will also make greater use of existing office space in the basement by remodeling areas for use as meeting facilities. Most staff offices are now located on the second floor.

CMS purchased the five-story 515 N. Dearborn building in 1978 from the Worsham College of Mortuary Science and currently rents three floors to local businesses.

Mark your calendar for Branch and Specialty Society meetings

Friday, Feb. 2

Aux Plaines Branch

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Southeastern Branch

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Chicago Pediatric Society

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Chicago Dermatological Society

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Chicago Gynecological Society

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Illinois Geriatrics Society

Thursday, March 8

North Side Branch

Tuesday, March 20

Chicago Pediatric Society

Wednesday, March 21

Chicago Gynecological Society

Wednesday, March 28

Illinois Geriatrics Society

Friday, March 30

Aux Plaines Branch

The above meeting dates, current at press time, are subject to change. Please refer to your mailed meeting notice for full details (i.e., cost, date, time, topic, location, etc.), and to confirm dates; or visit our website at www.cmsdocs.org. Detailed listings also appear in Chicago Medicine.

HAVING YOUR SAY

What issues would you like to see discussed at the ISMS House of Delegates meeting in April?

DURING THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Jan. 9), *CMSnews* staff asked several members to answer the question above. Here are their comments:

Wolf Peddinghaus, MD

General internal medicine and gerontology

"We need collective bargaining. Most of us have seen a complete erosion in the care we can provide. We need a counterbalancing influence against excessive government regulations and managed care."

Joan E. Cummings, MD

Internal medicine and geriatrics

"I would like to know how CMS and ISMS are going to respond to the AMA's proposal to restructure itself with representation by organization rather than by individual. Physicians would be AMA members by virtue of the specialty or state/county society to which they belong. I think the AMA proposal makes sense."

Dennis Malecki, MD

General surgery

"There are three issues. The quality of care being affected by staffing and shortage of beds. Another area is glitches in reimbursement, especially with Medicare and HMOs. Last is malpractice. We must bring that beast under control. Our malpractice rates are increasing and our reimbursements are going down. The [time-consuming] part of 'doing business' is impacting our practice of medicine."

A free lunch does exist!

ANGELA STURDIVANT, MD, AND HER office staff are looking forward to a free lunch in March courtesy of CMS. Dr. Sturdivant's office was chosen by raffle from a list of physicians who renewed their CMS membership before Dec. 31, 2000. CMS staff will personally deliver the luncheon to Dr. Sturdivant's office, Suburban Heights Medical Center, in Chicago Heights.



ATTN: ISMS DELEGATES

ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
APRIL 27-29, 2001

SAVE THE DATE:

FORMULATE POLICY- SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

Are you interested in being a delegate? If so, your branch may have vacancies. Contact Dick Bennett at 312/329-7323 or email rbennett@cmsdocs.org for answers to your questions.

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

CLEARING THE SMOKE

“All for Health” to weigh in on tobacco settlement

THE ALL FOR HEALTH COALITION HAS PROPOSED the establishment of a Tobacco Settlement Recovery Fund. Monies would be used exclusively to promote tobacco cessation and prevention and to improve the health of Illinois citizens.

CMS is a member of the Coalition, a group that aims to convince the state of Illinois to allocate 100 percent of future tobacco settlement proceeds to health-care concerns.

The coalition also is comprised of major health care professional, public health, and nursing organizations in the state along with the deans of Illinois medical schools.

The Coalition's proposal would channel the funds into four areas:

- Tobacco prevention and cessation
- Local public health efforts
- Medically underserved programs
- Biomedical research

The Illinois State Medical Society, also a mem-

Who's funding tobacco prevention programs?

Only six states--Arizona, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Mississippi--are funding tobacco prevention programs at “minimum levels” recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC recommends that states use approximately 20 to 25 percent of their settlement funds to establish cessation and prevention programs--*Findings from a new report issued by the Center for Tobacco-Free Kids*

ber of the Coalition, is aiding with draft legislation that the Coalition will take to state legislators, the media and to constituent organizations.

Illinois is one of only two states to use a portion of its tobacco settlement funds for non-health-related projects.

For more information, contact James Tarrant at (312) 670-2550, ext. 321 or email jtarrant@cmsdocs.org



Physician Artwork Wanted!

For Display at...

CMS 2001 Midwest Clinical Conference Art Exhibition

- February 22-25, Navy Pier •

All categories welcome:

painting
sculpture
poetry

handicrafts
photography
literature

Two-day commitment required. For details, or to reserve your space, please contact Liz Sidney, (312) 670-2550, ext. 335.

CMS-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

*Mark
your calendar*

CMS Annual Dinner

June 9, 2001

East Bank Club

For more information, call
Andre Henley at (312) 670-2550, ext. 329
or e-mail ahenley@cmsdocs.org

Golf/Tennis Outing 2001

June 27, 2001

Highland Park Golf Club

For more information, call
Tessa Rebmann at (312) 670-2550, ext. 325
or e-mail trebmann@cmsdocs.org

RENEWING YOUR LICENSE? NEED MORE CME CREDIT?

Earn up to 28 hours of category 1 CME credit!

CMS Midwest Clinical Conference 2001

**Navy Pier
Feb. 22-25, 2001**

**This year's theme:
"Strategic Healthcare
for a Diverse Population"**

Special topics:

- Computers and Technology
- Cultural Competence in Health Care
- Clinical Implications of the Human Genome Project

*For more information or to register,
see the centerspread of this issue.*

Find us online at CMS Internet address www.cmsdocs.org



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