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Midwest Clinical Conference (MCC) 2003  
March 20-22 - Navy Pier, Chicago

# cms news



September 2002 Vol. 4, No. 9

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY  
The Voice of Cook County Physicians

## COLLABORATION

### AMA leader makes house call on CMS Council

Scott Warner



Neil E. Winston, MD, CMS president elect, right, presents a nostalgic photo to Michael D. Maves, MD, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the AMA, following Dr. Maves' talk before the CMS Council on Sept. 10. The photo shows the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, previous home of the Washington Redskins. Dr. Maves, a former Washington resident, is a Redskins fan.

*Dr. Maves highlights state and national efforts to mobilize physicians*

MICHAEL D. MAVES, MD, MBA, EXECUTIVE vice president and chief executive officer of the AMA, has a simple philosophy: If organized medicine delivers value to its membership, then members will follow. It's a message he repeats time and time again to the AMA staff, and it's the message he brought to the Sept. 10 CMS Council meeting.

As guest speaker for the first Council meeting of the 2002-2003 year, Dr. Maves described what his organization is doing to show its value:

- The AMA has stepped up litigation on behalf of physicians, or as Dr. Maves simply puts it, gone into the business of suing the devils.
- High on the agenda is meeting with leadership on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill, and not giving up until tort and Medicare reform and prescription drug bills get a presidential signature.
- The AMA is inviting county medical and specialty societies to play a greater role in the family of medicine. And because of its proximity to the AMA, CMS is poised to become a test laboratory for the new relationship the AMA wants to build with local societies. In preliminary talks, CMS and AMA leaders have already discussed combining some membership recruitment activities and cosponsoring educational programs.
- To make sure members and patients know about the projects being carried out on their behalf, the AMA is publicizing its work through e mail, member publications and local and national media.

*Dr. Maves' speech will also be reported in the fall issue of Chicago Medicine.*

## CMS gains new voice

*Creation of new tax status paves way for enhanced CMS member advocacy*

CMS RECENTLY APPROVED A CHANGE in its tax status that will not only strengthen its financial structure, but also give CMS the legal flexibility to more rapidly sense and respond to the needs of members, said Neil E. Winston, MD, chairman of the Board of Trustees and CMS president elect.

The form and function of an organization like CMS should clearly reflect its mission and goals, Dr. Winston emphasized.

The new 501(c)(6) tax designation will empower CMS to create a forum for grass roots physician activity, encouraging individual participation and bringing a united voice to civic leaders and legislators.

This is an incredible opportunity to explore innovative ways of working with the physicians of Cook County on the issues that threaten their ability to provide quality medical care for patients, he said.

One example of the shape of things to come is the content of CMS communica-

tions. Working synergistically with ISMS and AMA, CMS will offer information on its web site and in its publications that members need to proactively address the issues they care about, Dr. Winston said. The purpose of this process is to assist them in fine tuning relationships with their elected officials, community leaders, and patients all with the goal of improving the medical care playing field.

It cannot be said too often that the success of CMS ultimately depends upon the approximately 17,000 physicians in Cook County being actively engaged members working together to achieve our common goals," stated Dr. Winston.

"Along these lines, the new favorite quote of CMS President Richard A. Geline, MD, and myself, comes from AMA Immediate Past President Richard F. Corlin, MD. In June, Dr. Corlin told the AMA House of Delegates:

*'If you don't belong and don't contribute generously to the Political Action Committee to fund our war chest if you don't help shoulder the burden in this fight for tort reform that will benefit all physicians, then to you I say I don't care where you went to school or what degree you have, you're a trial lawyer.'*"

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### Let your woes be heard: We'll link you to the media

ARE YOU BEING FORCED TO LIMIT health care services? Must you stop accepting new patients? Will you have to retire early? Would you like the public to know about the crisis facing the doctor patient relationship?

*If the answer is yes to any of these then we urgently need to hear from you.*

CMS receives calls regularly from news organizations (and the AMA) asking to set up interviews with Chicago area physicians hit by dwindling Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement and/or soaring medical malpractice insurance premiums. We can put you in touch with reporters who will help us make

your voice heard locally and nationally.

*Please call (312) 670 2550, ext. 322, or e mail [askcms@cmsdocs.org](mailto:askcms@cmsdocs.org).*

### Flu vaccine—reimbursement can make you sick!

A CMS MEMBER CALLED WITH THIS ALERT: Physicians should review their reimbursements for administering the flu vaccine this fall. In this member's practice, the cost for vaccine is \$7.60 per dose but the reimbursement is only \$3.80 per dose. At that rate the practice would lose nearly \$2,000 for every 500 doses it administered, and so it decided instead to refer patients to other sources.

*Help CMS tabulate the number of offices being asked to subsidize the cost for vaccine by calling (312) 670 2550.*

## EMERGENCIES

### **We need your e-mail address**

*CDPH health alerts part of new collaboration*

CAN WE REACH YOU IF THERE S AN EMERGENCY health alert to send? In an effort to bring you time ly updates, CMS has teamed up with the Chicago Department of Public Health to deliver the latest news from the CDPH Health Alert Network. For example, the CDPH recently issued a mosquito control alert answering questions about what the

city is doing to address the problem of West Nile virus and how patients can reduce their risk of becoming infected. CMS forwarded that alert to members via broadcast e mail.

**But we could only send the message to members for whom we have e mail addresses.** So, if you wish to receive future broadcast alerts from the CDPH, please send us your e mail address at askcmsdocs@cmsdocs.org; or call CMS at (312) 670 2550; or fax (312) 670 3646. **We will not share your e mail address with any outside parties.**

### **How do you keep abreast of urgent public health issues, like the West Nile virus?**

*During the Sept. 10 Council meeting, CMSnews asked physicians for their views on issues and events in the news. Here s what your colleagues had to say.*

My hospital, Holy Cross, has an active infectious disease department, and they cooperate with the Chicago Department of Public Health, so we have excellent access to the latest information, i.e. West Nile virus, Anthrax. And it provides us printed information that we can give to our patients as well. I also turn to the Internet, like WebMD.com.

**Wade Malhas, MD**  
*Orthopedic Surgery*

Generally I would get information from the Infectious Disease Department at the hospital. I also subscribe to Medline.com. I think the Internet is the way to go. Since I don t have my

regular practice anymore, I do feel left out sometimes.

**Edward A. Wojcik, MD**  
*Orthopedic surgery*

I rely on various publications, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun Times*. I have a subscription to MDconsult.com, and I also visit the health sites on Yahoo! and MSN, not every day but from time to time. There s also ophthalmic literature that I use as a resource. It s no struggle to find information when I need it.

**Alan J. Axelrod, MD**  
*Ophthalmology*

*Editor s note: Once we have your e mail address, CMS*

## SERVING YOU

# CMS creates emergency card with help from AMA & UIC

THE CMS PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, WITH the assistance of the AMA and the University of Illinois at Chicago Prevention Research Center, has created an easy to carry pocket card listing phone numbers physicians may need in case of citywide emergencies.

*This reference card will be sent during October to all member physicians as part of their first dues mailing.*

The card, measuring 5 x 3.5 was developed in response to concerns that physicians wouldn't know who to call to report suspicious illnesses or other evidence of bioterrorist activity.

Among these numbers is the 311 information line, which John Wilhelm, MD, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, says should be the first number physicians think of when reporting infectious diseases. The card also gives other numbers, such as the Chicago Poison Control, the Cook County Medical Examiners office, and the Centers for Disease Control.

*Watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for this valuable membership benefit, included with your 2003 dues mailing.*



This two sided card, containing important emergency phone numbers for physicians, is being sent to all CMS members.

## MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CMS COUNCIL MEETINGS

**W**E REMIND YOU THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETINGS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBSERVING THE CMS POLICY MAKING BODY IN ACTION, CALL (312) 670 2550, EXT. 322, TO RESERVE AN AGENDA PACKET. CMS MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR TO SPEAK AT COUNCIL MEETINGS BEFORE THE MEETING CONVENES. WHEN THE CHAIR GRANTS THIS PERMISSION, IT WILL BE FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

*The next Council meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:  
Nov. 12, 2002; Jan. 14, 2003; March 11, 2003; May 6, 2003; June 3, 2003.*

*Location to be announced.*

## PUFFING ISSUE

### City Council to debate latest smoking ban

*Proposal would let restaurant patrons, workers breathe easier*

HOPING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GROWING national trend, Chicago City Council Aldermen Ed Smith (28th) and Edward Burke (14th) have reintroduced a long awaited measure to ban smoking in Chicago restaurants. The proposed legislation follows an ordinance introduced by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who wants to ban smoking in all offices, bars and restaurants including pool halls, bowling alleys and bingo parlors.

The Illinois Restaurant Association, which has vowed to fight the latest proposal, says that smoking

bans would harm the financial health of businesses and infringe on the rights of customers. But studies supporting the restaurants claims are funded by the tobacco industry, says Ron Burke, spokesman for the American Lung Association in Chicago. Indeed, all reputable independent studies have shown that smoking bans do not have a negative impact on sales, employment and tourism, he says.

In California, for example, which enacted a ban in 1998, revenue has grown in bars and restaurants every year since this health measure was enacted. Now, almost three quarters of bar patrons in California like their air smoke free, said Elena Deutsch, director of tobacco control for the American Cancer Society, recently quoted in *The New York Times*.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR BRANCH AND SPECIALTY SOCIETY MEETINGS

**Wednesday, Oct 2**

*West Side Branch*

**Wednesday, Oct 9**

*North Shore Branch*

**Wednesday, Oct 16**

*Chicago Dermatological Society*

**Wednesday, Oct 16**

*Chicago Gynecological Society*

**Wednesday, Nov. 20**

*Chicago Gynecological Society*

*The adjacent 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 web site at [www.cmsdocs.org](http://www.cmsdocs.org).*

Find us online at CMS Internet address [www.cmsdocs.org](http://www.cmsdocs.org)

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

**cms news**

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## **HEALTH Act passes through House Judiciary Committee**

THE BATTLE FOR MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM scored a major victory this month when the House Judiciary Committee passed the bipartisan HEALTH Act (H.R. 4600). The Help Efficient, Accessible, Low Cost, Timely Health Care Act is based on the successful California Medical Injury Compensation Act (MICRA) model, which has been in effect for 25 years. HEALTH and its companion bill in the Senate (S. 2793) would provide a \$250,000 cap on non economic damages and place a reasonable limit on punitive damages without pre-empting existing state law.

## **Regional Healthy People 2010 activities in the works**

AS PART OF THE HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 initiative, Illinois is among a group of states (Region V) working with community associations to improve health and eliminate disparities in care.

Launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Foundation, and the Office of Public Health and Science, Healthy People 2010 has designated different regions of the United States for various projects and activities. Region V includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

*To learn more, go to [www.phf.org/Hptools/regions.htm](http://www.phf.org/Hptools/regions.htm).*

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## **CMS OFFERS ANNUAL OSHA TRAINING**

*OSHA requires annual training for all health care workers with potential occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Attending our 85-minute training course and updating your exposure control plan satisfies your yearly OSHA regulations.*

**Upcoming dates:  
Oct. 9, 30; Nov. 13.**

*CMS members and their staff receive significant discounts.*

**For locations, fees, and registration form, please call (312) 670-2550, ext. 338.**

*Need onsite training?  
Please call (312) 670-2550, ext. 339.*

## **Do you want to help create a CMS TV program?**

CMS IS EXPLORING OPTIONS TO CREATE A medical television program for the public access television station CAN TV.

Because the station does not provide camera operators or any assistance apart from use of the facilities, CMS is seeking physicians who would be interested in learning such TV orient

ed skills as running a camera, editing film, working with sound, and writing material for a half hour program. All classes are provided by CAN TV.

*If you re interested in pitching in, learning a new skill, and helping CMS bring its public profile to a new level, contact Chris Sienko at (312) 329 7334.*

# MEMBERSHIP IS NO LONGER AN ALTERNATIVE IT S AN IMPERATIVE!

*Please help recruit your colleagues*

**A**s a CMS member you are aware of the value of organized medicine. You can support your profession by asking this question of every physician you speak with:

● **ARE YOU A MEMBER of the Chicago Medical Society?**

Don t be shy about asking physicians to join. You, our members, are our best way of reaching out to colleagues. It will take several attempts to persuade them, but since the events of September 11, there appears to be a growing interest in being connected in joining.

● *Explain that you joined CMS BECAUSE physicians need a unified voice.*

Membership is an investment both in the future of physicians and in organized medicine. Membership allows physicians to take advantage of the numerous leadership, networking and advocacy opportunities the Society has to offer.

### *What is organized medicine doing for me?*

- Fights for meaningful tort reform.
- Provides a voice for physicians.
- Sponsors educational programs for physicians and office staff.
- Continues to seek higher reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare.
- Supports a Patients Bill of Rights.
- Promotes Fairness in Contracting legislation to simplify managed care contracts.
- Blocked a plan to charge \$1 per Medicare claim filed.

While some argue that specialty societies are the answer, many physicians tell us that specialty societies cannot meet all a physician s needs.

### *Here s what CMS/ISMS bring you:*

- Legislative Advocacy
- Physician Practice Advocate
- Professional Liability/Health Insurance
- Collective Bargaining
- Service Bureau Programs/Discounts
- Practice Management Courses
- Continuing Medical Education
- Community Outreach
- Practice Advocacy

*When physicians do not join medicine, it weakens the voice of medicine.*

*Encourage your colleagues to join CMS and ISMS today.*



**Chicago Medicine/CMSNews classified advertising form**

**Classified policy**

Acceptance of advertising is restricted to professional and business opportunities, practices for sale and rent, and medical office space available. All requests for classified advertising must be submitted in writing. Although Chicago Medicine/CMSNews believes the classified advertisements published within these pages to be from reputable sources, Chicago Medicine/CMSNews does not investigate the offers made and assumes no liability concerning them. Chicago Medicine/CMSNews reserves the right to decline, withdraw, or edit advertisements at its discretion. While Chicago Medicine/CMSNews makes every attempt to achieve accuracy, it cannot accept responsibility for typographical errors.

<b>Classified Rates (Per Insertion)</b>	<b>25 Words or less</b>	<b>26-40 words</b>	<b>41-60 words</b>	<b>61-80 words</b>	<b>81-100 words</b>
Non-members . . . . .	\$21.00	\$35.00	\$48.00	\$61.00	\$73.00
CMS members (20% discount) . . .	\$16.80	\$28.00	\$38.40	\$48.00	\$58.40

**Advertising guidelines:**

1. Chicago Medical Society publishes Chicago Medicine quarterly and CMSNews monthly. Your ad will run in consecutive issues. Deadline is the first day of the month prior to the month in which your ad will run. For example, the deadline for the December issue would be Nov. 1.
2. Payment must accompany the ad. We accept check, money order, Visa or MasterCard.
3. All ads must be submitted in writing, preferably using this form.
4. Cancellation notice must be received no later than the first day of the prior month.
5. Box reply numbers are assigned upon request at an additional \$5 per insertion (see below).
6. Return this completed form to: Dan Pashman, *Chicago Medicine/CMSNews*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610; or fax it to (312) 670-3646.
7. If you have any questions, call Dan at (312) 329-7324.

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**Check here if you want ad responses sent via box number (additional \$5 per insertion).**

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Signature of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Use lines below to type ad exactly as it should appear. Use additional paper, if necessary.

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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**MEDICAL OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN** River North area at Tiffani Kim Institute. Ideal space available for plastic surgeon, vein surgeon, acupuncturist, nutritionist, and other holistic and medical practitioners. Interested parties should call Tiffani at (312) 260 9088 or fax C.V. to (312) 260 9096. Visit our web site at [www.tiffanikiminstitute.com](http://www.tiffanikiminstitute.com).

**POPLAR CREEK MED SURGICAL CENTER** Hoffman Estates. Class A offices for lease. All amenities, services, and build out included. Call Susan Fowler, (847) 381 4134.

**FOR LEASE OAK BROOK, 20,000 SQ. FT.** (divisible) former Rush Prudential General Internal Medicine Facility. A+ Location, Exclusive Signage facing I 88. Contact Jeffrey Petrovski, Broderick Commercial, (630) 368 7504.

**FOR SUBLEASE FULLY EQUIPPED OFFICE** space in downtown Hinsdale. Close to Hinsdale Hospital. Call (630) 323 5522.

### Medical practice for sale

**ALLERGY PRACTICE FOR SALE. CALL OR** fax. Home: (708) 422 2320. Office: (773) 581 1828, Tuesday & Friday 2 6, Thursday 10 2, Saturday 9 12.

**FOR SALE WELL ESTABLISHED** in internal medicine practice, one hour from Chicago. Clinic set up for doing x rays, procedures, and labs. Reply to Box #2036, c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

### Medical practice wanted

**MEDICAL PRACTICE WANTED NEAR** western suburbs or near Chicago. Fax (630) 243 1079; or reply to Box #2022, c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

### Personnel wanted

**HOME PHYSICIANS, A MEDICAL GROUP** in Chicago specializing in house calls, is seeking physicians. Looking for individuals with training in primary care/surgical debridement. Full time and part time positions. Fax C.V. to Scott Schneider at (773) 384 7053; or mail to Home Physicians, 1735 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone (773) 292 4800; [www.homephysicians.com](http://www.homephysicians.com).

**SPANISH SPEAKING INTERNAL MEDICINE** or family practice physician for large group

practice. Call (773) 895 9695. Terms negotiable. **PLASTIC SURGERY PRACTICE SEEKING** research assistant for clinical studies. Medical writing experience needed. Part time. Call (773) 472 7559 or fax (773) 472 8032.

**CHICAGO: FULL AND PART TIME** anesthesiologist MD & CRNA wanted for family planning Gyn surgical outpatient facility in the northwest and southwest suburbs of Chicago. Residents welcome. Malpractice insurance available. Please send resume to: Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, or fax to (847) 398 4585.

**PHYSICIANS NEEDED ALL SURGICAL** and medical specialties, full or part time. Suburban Chicago location, northwestern and western suburbs. family physician, ob/gyn, in internal medicine, gyn, general surgery, urology, GI, orthopedics, ophthalmology, radiology, dermatology, ENT, plastic surgery, peds, family practice with peds, anesthesiology, cardiology, and other specialties. Malpractice insurance available. Hourly or salaried positions available. Clinical and administrative duties required. Mail C.V. to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, or fax to (847) 398 4585.

**CHICAGO PHYSICIANS NEEDED, OB GYN,** full or part time. Pregnancy terminations, tubal sterilization, infertility, and other services. Suburban Chicago location, northwest and western suburbs. Full or part time, hourly and salaried positions available. Mail C.V. to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, or fax to (847) 398 4585.

### Personnel available

**MEDICAL ASSISTANTS, MEDICAL DOCTORS,** RNs, LPNs, secretaries/receptionists, office managers, insurance billers/collectors, lab/x ray technicians. Chicago and suburbs. American Medical Personnel, Ms. Christy (312) 337 4221.

**LOCUM PEDIATRICIAN AVAILABLE** for western suburbs. Reply to Box #2042, c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

**LICENSED, EXPERIENCED HEARING AID** specialist seeks to join ENT's audiology practice. Background high tech, high volume. Ethical, professional, diligent. (773) 761 0405 or [roytacup@yahoo.com](mailto:roytacup@yahoo.com).

### Training Programs

**CONSCIOUS SEDATION AND BASIC** airway management training. The University of Chicago Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care is pleased to announce the Conscious Sedation & Basic Airway Management Training Program for physicians and nurses involved in conscious sedation. The training will be conducted in the Airway Laboratory and

Simulation Center equipped with airway training models, simulator and videotapes. The format shall include seminars, case presentations, computer programs, hands on workshop, and simulations. This 4 or 8 hour training is tailored to the needs of each individual. For further information and details regarding tuition and requirements, please contact: Andranik Ovassapian, MD, Director, Airway Study & Training Center, Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care, University of Chicago, 5841 S. Maryland Ave., MC 4028, Chicago, IL 60637. Phone: (773) 702 3906. Fax: (773) 834 7833. E mail: [aovassap@airway.uchicago.edu](mailto:aovassap@airway.uchicago.edu). Category 1 CME credit will be provided.

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