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cms news



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

PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY

CMS networks in political arena

Building relationships with legislators key for future

TO ADVOCATE PHYSICIAN ISSUES, CMS leadership attended a reception in September for Illinois House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (D 25). Led by Drs. Richard A. Geline, president, and Neil E. Winston, president elect, the group also met Rep. Julie Hamos (D 18) and Sen. Barack Obama (D 13). CMS leaders used the opportunity to discuss such issues as Fairness in Contracting legislation, tort reform, and physician participation in executions.

(Other members who attended were Drs. Shastri Swaminathan, H. Constance Bonbrest, Saroja Bharati, William A. McDade, Carol A. Meyers, Ann Marie Dunlap, and CMS Executive Director James R. Tarrant.)

Earlier in September, Mr. Tarrant, along with CMS member Herbert Sohn, MD, attended a City Club of Chicago Public Policy Luncheon featuring Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Fitzgerald talked about the fight against terrorism on the anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks.

At the end of the month, Drs. Geline and Winston and Mr. Tarrant also helped welcome Corey R. Hoze, the newly appointed Health and Human Services Region V director, at a reception hosted by a local law firm. Region V is composed of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

CMS encourages all members to meet with their respective state and federal representatives to forge strong relationships. Only then can they communicate the importance of change in the health care system to improve access to quality care, says Dr. Geline.

CMS to seek funding for bioterrorism preparedness

Grant would allow Society to play major role in educating physicians

CMS IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE CHICAGO Department of Public Health (CDPH) to form a Chicago Bioterrorism Speakers Bureau to aid the CDPH in safeguarding Chicago's citizens against a bioterrorist attack. The new program would create educational seminars for physicians on bioterrorism related topics and the role of private physicians in a crisis.

Under terms of the agreement, CMS would develop, operate, and evaluate the bureau as well as recommend trainers who would teach health care professionals how to recognize and respond to a bioterrorist event.

In a recent announcement of federal funding for hospital bioterrorism preparedness programs, the CDPH

continued on page 3

named Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center and the John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County as bioterrorism preparedness Centers of Excellence.

Also playing major supporting roles as hospital leadership centers are Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the University of Illinois Medical Center, Mt. Sinai Hospital/Sinai Health Systems, and the University of Chicago Hospitals. The two Centers for Excellence will receive \$270,000 each in federal bioterrorism preparedness funds, and the four

other hospitals will be awarded \$70,000 each. The dollars will be used to improve hospital capabilities in preparedness planning, disease detection and surveillance, infection control, communications, collaborations, education and training, and more.

Earlier this year, the CDPH was awarded \$12.4 million from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$1.3 million from the Health Resource Services Administration to support development of an integrated system for bioterrorism and emergency public health re

Physicians, know your rights:

Examine and pay attention to medical staff bylaws

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR PHYSICIANS TO take the time to familiarize themselves with medical staff bylaws, and to know their rights provided under such bylaws, advises the CMS Physician Advocacy Committee.

The Committee further suggests that because the bylaws constitute a contract between the physician and the hospital, that each hospital's medical staff leadership and bylaws committee appropriate funds for hiring independent counsel for updating the bylaws in compliance with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization and state laws.

According to the Physician Advocacy

Committee, three key issues need to be addressed in the bylaws:

- Proper statement of cause for termination.
- True balanced hearing process.
- Objective limitations on the governing board's final decision, to include the interdependence of hospital bylaws with the medical staff bylaws.

The CMS Physician Advocacy Committee is chaired by Raj B. Lal, MD.

ISMS and the AMA have developed model medical staff bylaws. Any CMS member who would like more detailed information, or any medical staff leaders who would like a CME lecture on Medical Staff Bylaws and the Rights of the Physician presented at their hospital, should contact Cathy Faeltke at (312) 329 7322, or e mail askcms@cmsdocs.org.

Let's speak with a unified voice

Here's how one CMS member is making a difference

As a newly formed 501(c)(6) organization, CMS can now help members achieve a greater presence in the political arena. The Society is therefore encouraging all members to join the political process and speak with a united voice to civic leaders and legislators. The case of CMS member Thomas Chorba, MD, is an example of how physicians can get involved. As the incoming president of the North Suburban Branch, he was new to the political scene but anxious to reach out to legislators. Last summer, Dr. Chorba, who often expressed concern about liability insurance, was able to give testimony during a hearing on tort reform in Libertyville. He relied on ISMS and CMS to prepare him and provide the background information he needed. That was just the beginning. Since then, Dr. Chorba has met with his local alderman, state senator and representative. At all times he was fully informed and ready to present the medical profession's case.

Help us help you. For assistance in presenting your position to legislators, e mail askcms@cmsdocs.org

CMS ACTIVITIES

Dealing with your concerns

CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY and the establishment of a single payor health care system are among the most charged issues for physicians today. CMS is addressing these concerns in two committees: The newly appointed Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Formation of a Single Payor Health care System, and the Professional Liability Insurance Committee, which looks at the actions of the professional liability industry and responds to inquiries and suggestions from members.

To sit in on a meeting or for information on how you can become involved, contact Cathy Faedtke at (312) 329 7322.

Oops!

We really do want your e-mail address

CORRECTION: IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE OF *CMSnews* we asked members to send us their e-mail addresses so we can transmit emergency alerts from the Chicago Department of Public Health and other urgent messages. However, we gave you the wrong address. We regret the error.

Our correct address is askcms@cmsdocs.org

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 date:
Nov. 13**

CMS members and their staff receive significant discounts.

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

Need on-site training?

Please call (312) 670-2550, ext. 339.



Scott Warmer

Shown at the recent CMS Physician Art Committee tour of the AMA are (from left to right front row): Laura Carroll, AMA archivist; Liz Sidney, CMS staff; Jack Williams, MD; Richard A. Geline, MD, CMS president; and George S. Farah, MD, chair man, Physician Art Committee. (Back row): David Appert, MD, Hugh Savage, MD, Jim Tarrant, CMS executive director, Julian J. Rimpila, MD, and wife, Beverly. At far right is a portrait of Nathan S. Davis, MD, an early CMS president and founder of the AMA. Also shown is the desk that Dr. Davis used circa 1900 in his office practice at Northwestern University Medical School.

Physician Art Committee tours AMA collection

MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE CMS PHYSICIAN Art Committee enjoyed a private tour of the AMA's art collection on Sept. 25. Beginning in the executive offices on the 16th floor, physicians viewed a sampling of works by architects Louis H. Sullivan and Buckminster Fuller, sculptor Claes Oldenburg, and artists Leon Golub, William Wegman, and others. The entire collection, which includes hundreds of pieces, represents styles ranging from abstract to traditional. The collection was put together in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and was an investment of reserve funds.

CMS members may arrange for a free building tour of the AMA by contacting either Laura Carroll or Allen Podrza in the AMA Archives Department at (312) 464 4083.

Join us for our next event: The Physician Art Committee will meet for dinner Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Creole Restaurant, 226 W. Kinzie, to sample southern comfort food. For more information call (312) 329 7335.

Flu vaccine reimbursement—Tales from the front

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF *CMSNEWS*, WE told you about a member who said he was being reimbursed only \$3.80 per dose for flu vaccine, although the cost for vaccine was \$7.60 per dose. He was referencing a private carrier.

When this article appeared, another physician reported a similar situation with insufficient reimbursement, also from a private carrier. In response to our article, CMS member Stephen D. Boren, MD, MBA, medical director of Medicare B Illinois, wrote to say that Cook County physicians receiving Medicare payment get \$4.60 per injection, plus an additional \$8.02 for the cost of the vaccine. Thus, Chicago physicians receiving Medicare reimbursement would be paid \$12.62 for their services. *(For further information on Medicare reimbursements go to <http://www.wpsic.com>).*

It is vital for physicians to know what your services cost you, and what reimbursement you should receive for flu vaccinations. If you are re-

ceiving insufficient reimbursement from your insurance carrier, we would like to hear from you.

Please call us at (312) 670 2550, ext. 322, or e mail askcms@cmsdocs.org.

Donate your used medical equipment

THE INDIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Illinois) Charitable Foundation hopes that physicians who plan to retire soon will consider donating their used equipment to the Foundation's new free clinic at 2645 W. Peterson Ave. Some urgently needed items include: Wall mounted otoscope and ophthalmoscope sets; examination room patient chairs, stools (adjustable, metal) and stand lights; weighing machines (regular or electronic); and electronic thermometers. The clinic also needs computers with monitors and printers for various purposes.

For more information, contact Marella L. Hanumadass, MD, at (630) 530 4052 or e mail hanumadass@aol.com.

LEGISLATION

U.S. House passes HEALTH Act

THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE AMA'S aggressive fight, the U.S. House passed the bipartisan HEALTH Act (H.R. 4600) by a vote of 217 to 203. Passed during the final week of September, this medical liability reform legislation is based on the MICRA law that has been in effect in California for the past 25 years.

It's now on to the Senate where the legislation has been introduced as S. 2793 and faces tough going. CMS encourages members to thank those representatives who supported this legislation.

Voted YES

Judy Biggert (R 13)
Phil Crane (R 8)
Henry Hyde (R 6)
Mark Kirk (R 10)

Ray LaHood (R 18)
Don Manzullo (R 16)
John Shimkus (R 20)
Jerry Weller (R 11)

Voted NO

Rod Blagojevich (D 5)
Jerry Costello (D 12)
Danny Davis (D 7)
Lane Evans (D 17)
Luis Gutierrez (D 4)
Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D 2)
Tim Johnson (R 15)
William Lipinski (D 3)
David Phelps (D 19)
Bobby Rush (D 1)
Jan Schakowsky (D 9)

COURTSIDE

Florida ruling important victory for HMO patients and physicians

IN A RECENT LANDMARK RULING, U.S. DISTRICT Court Judge Federico Moreno certified physicians class action status in a lawsuit filed to combat widespread and chronic abuses by some of the nation's largest for-profit HMOs.

The suit identifies Aetna, United Healthcare, CIGNA, Coventry, Wellpoint, Humana Health Plan, Inc., Pacificare Health Systems, Inc., and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield as co-conspirators

who have violated contracts and defrauded physicians in violation of the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

The California Medical Association and individual physicians originally filed the lawsuit in May 2000. With other states joining in as plaintiffs, the lawsuit has since been consolidated in Miami's U.S. District Court against dozens more health plans.

Source: *AMA Federation News*, Oct. 2, 2002.

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

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CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any member having information affecting the membership of the candidates listed here should communicate at once with Membership Committee Chairman Irene Panayotou, MD, at (312) 670 2550.

Aux Plaines

(Resident)
Ach, Harold, MD
Krol, Pamela, MD
Tebeau, Christopher, MD

Douglas Park

(Regular)
Hadi, Mahmood, MD
Saleem, Rafia, MD

(Resident)

Michael, Sheri, MD
Sekhadia, Mehul, DO

Hines/Loyola

(Regular)
Akhter, Iqbal, MD
Barbato, Anthony, MD

Irving Park

(Regular)
Fisher, Joel, MD
(Resident)
Mandelin, Arthur, MD

North Shore

(Resident)
Padala, Kiran, MD
Valdes, Ibrahim, MD
Vemulapalli, Roopa, MD

North Side

(Third Year)
Izadifar, Noushin, MD

(Resident)

Apostol, Annabelle, MD
Barion, Ana Thereza, MD
Blint, Andy, MD
Burkett, David, MD
Chavez Valdez, Raul, MD
Hong, John, MD
Miller, Andrew, MD
Quesada, Ramon, MD

North Suburban

(Regular)
Landers, Catherine, MD

(Resident)

Hallock, Robert, MD
Pasha, Azeem, MD
Shin, Peter, MD

Northwest

(Resident)
Christopoulos, Niki, MD

Southern Cook County

(Resident)
Hertz, Brian, MD

Southeastern

(Regular)
Ivers, Greta, MD

(Resident)

Alkhudari, Azzam, MD
Jarrett, Olamide, MD
McLaughlin, Jeanette, MD
Schulte, Erik, DO

Southwest

(Resident)
McCabe, Kristin, MD

West Side

(First Year)
Abrams, Robert MD

(Resident)

Jackson, Courtney, MD
Kalejs, Heather, MD
Li, Ge, MD, PhD
Merz, Meredith, MD
Tilford, Bradley, MD

Wood Street

(Resident)

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 pm.
on the following Tuesdays:
Nov. 12, 2002; Jan. 14, Mardi 11, May 6, June 3, 2003.
Location to be announced.*

IDPH releases cancer statistics review

The Illinois Department of Public Health has released Illinois County Cancer Statistics Review Incidence, 1995-1999 (Epidemiological Report Series 02:3). A copy of this report is available in the CMS library for members who would like to come in and review it.

Call Dan Pashman at CMS (312) 329 7324 to set up a library appointment. Additional copies may also be obtained by contacting the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 785 1873; or IDPH Division of Epidemiologic Studies, 605 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Office/building for sale/rent

GOLD COAST AREA (CLARK & OAK). Fully equipped multi specialty medical office space available. Call Norma (312) 337 5609.

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FOR SALE MODERN BRICK MEDICAL building, 32,000 sq. ft. Fully rented, located in Homewood, IL, close to three hospitals. Please contact Michelle Falk at (708) 799 8880 if interested.

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.

BUSY FAMILY, SPORTS, INDUSTRIAL practice for sale. Located in near western suburbs. Close to Westlake, LaGrange, Hinsdale and Elmhurst Hospitals. Room for two to three physicians. For further information, write to Box #2009, c/o Chicago Medicine, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

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EXPERIENCED INTERNIST DESIRES position in OP or HMO clinic in northern suburbs. Reply to Box #2047, c/o Chicago Medicine, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

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