

March 10, 2016

## Practice Management

### Reminder: Physicians and Teaching Hospitals Need to Complete Sunshine Act (Open Payments) System Registration in Order to Review and Dispute Data

The Sunshine Act, which is part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), requires manufacturers of drugs, medical devices, and biologicals that participate in U.S. federal health care programs to report certain payments and items of value given to physicians and teaching hospitals.

This system is known as **Open Payments (or the Sunshine Act)**. The next review and dispute period for physicians and teaching hospitals is targeted to start in April 2016 for 2015 payment data. Registering in the Open Payments system is voluntary for physicians and teaching hospitals. **However, registering is required if a physician or teaching hospital wants the opportunity to review and dispute data.** Only information that has been submitted in the current program year is eligible for review and dispute.

The data is submitted by applicable manufacturers (e.g., Pharma companies) and applicable group purchasing organizations (GPOs) prior to public posting on June 30, 2016. If a physician or teaching hospital registered last year, they are not required to register again this year.

If it has been over 180 days since you have logged onto the Enterprise Identity Management System (EIDM), your account has been deactivated for security purposes. If an account has been deactivated, contact the Help Desk. The Help Desk hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (EST). For new users, the quick reference guide on the EIDM system can be found [here](#). In addition, the quick reference guides on teaching hospital registration can be found [here](#), and the guide for physician registration can be found [here](#).

CMS plans to publish the 2015 payment data and make any applicable updates to the 2013 and 2014 data in June 2016. More information about Open Payments is available at [www.cms.gov/openpayments](http://www.cms.gov/openpayments).

There are a number of useful educational materials available to help physicians and teaching hospitals learn more about the Open Payments registration process. These materials are available on the [Resources](#) page of the [Open Payments](#) website. You may want to begin by reviewing the [2015 Open Payments Program Overview and Enhancements - PDF](#).

The [Resources](#) page of the [Open Payments](#) website contains all of these materials.

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### New York State E-Prescribing Mandate Effective March 27, 2016; No Further Delay Is Expected

*(excerpt courtesy of Nixon-Peabody)*

New York State health care practitioners (excluding veterinarians) are expected to be ready to issue all prescriptions, including prescriptions for controlled substances, in electronic format, by March 27, 2016. The law, originally slated to become effective on March 27, 2015, was delayed for one year to provide additional time for health care practitioners and health care facilities to acquire, test and implement DEA approved and certified e-prescribing software.



Although the requirement to prescribe electronically is imposed on practitioners, many practitioners are reliant upon hospitals, nursing homes or other facilities to provide the necessary e-prescribing hardware and

software to utilize when the practitioners are providing health services and prescribing drugs for patients or residents at such locations. As a result, there are many practitioners who may be ready by March 27, 2016, to prescribe electronically in some but not all of their practice locations. You must be certain all your work environments are set!

To read more, [click here](#).

In addition, NYACP has resources to assist you in your implementation efforts.

- **The NYACP E-Prescribing Page:** [This page contains information](#) on how to sign up for the Health Commerce System, Prescription Monitoring Program, and other useful information pertaining to the implementation of E-Prescribing.
- **Vendor List:** Courtesy of Surescripts, [find out what vendors are available to suit your E-Prescribing needs!](#)
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** [From the NYS DOH, there is a handy guide of frequently asked questions about E-Prescribing Implementation.](#)
- **Waiver Applications:** To find out if you qualify for a waiver, and how to submit a waiver application, [you can go here](#).

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## Important Information on Zika Virus Testing from the New York State Department of Health



**1. Talk to your patient about Zika:** At this time, your patient can get tested if they:

- Are pregnant, and travelled to a place where Zika virus was being transmitted while the patient were pregnant
- Are a man or woman who become (or became) ill with symptoms of Zika virus within 4 weeks of travel to a place where Zika virus is being transmitted.

**2. Patients can obtain a “Zika virus testing approval form” from Local Health Departments (LHDs):** You can work with a patient to get this approval (Contact information for LHDs is available [here](#)). They MUST get approval from their LHD before they can get tested. The form can be emailed to you or the patient. The form could also be faxed.

**3. Provide a Zika virus test prescription for your patients:** In addition to getting LHD approval for testing, you can give your patients a prescription for the lab tests that are needed.

**4. Provide your patient with collection site phone numbers if an appointment is needed:** [A list of hospitals and their laboratory telephone numbers is available to provide to your patient.](#) (*Health Commerce System Login is required*).

**5. Instruct the patient to go to the collection site:** A patient will need to bring the approval form from the LHD and the prescription from you provided. The sample collection site is not able to provide any lab testing unless they are given both the health department approval form and the prescription you've provided.

At the collection site, blood and urine samples will be collected and sent to Wadsworth Center, the New York State public health laboratory, for Zika virus testing. There will be no charge to the patient for the blood and urine collection, shipping and testing. Inform the patient to wear short sleeves or sleeves that can easily be rolled up.

**6. Results of the patient's tests:** Testing for Zika virus infection is a two-step process. The first test results will be available within a few days of the sample collection. However, in most cases, additional testing is required to determine if a patient was infected; these results may take up to 21 days due to the complicated nature of the tests involved. Some people may need additional blood samples collected three weeks after the first samples. Test results will be sent to your office, and your patient can discuss their results with you and ask any questions they may have.

**7. Questions?** Patients can contact their Local Health Department or the New York State Department of

Health at 1-888-364-4723. Instructions for Zika virus testing for NYC residents can be found [here](#).

[They can also read the Department of Health FAQ on the Zika virus here.](#)

In addition, patients can call the Zika information line at **(888)364-4723** from Monday - Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.

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## **The Medicare EHR Incentive Program Hardship Application Deadline for All Providers is Now July 1, 2016**

CMS has extended the application deadline for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program hardship exception process that reduces burden on clinicians, hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs). The new deadline for Eligible Professionals, Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals is July 1, 2016. CMS is extending the deadline so providers have sufficient time to submit their applications to avoid adjustments to their Medicare payments in 2017.

In January, CMS posted new, streamlined hardship exception application forms that reduce the amount of information that eligible professionals (EPs), eligible hospitals, and CAHs must submit to apply for an exception. The new applications and instructions for providers seeking a hardship exception are [available here](#).

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## ***Advocacy***

### **Highlights of the NYACP Health and Public Policy Committee Meeting**

On Thursday, March 3, the NYACP Health and Public Policy Committee convened at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. The meeting was well attended, with over 40 members in attendance.

An overview by Chairman Louis Snitkoff, MD, FACP, covered legislative bills that the Chapter is monitoring in 2016, including a new proposal for a CME mandate for education related to controlled substances. Among the 46 other Bills covered, tobacco restrictions, STEP therapy, and an extension of the standardized prior authorization form used in Medicaid to all commercial payers were highlighted.

There were also more than three dozen bills pertinent to health care monitored by the Chapter and signed over the course of 2015, including the extension of the I-STOP implementation deadline and mandatory vaccinations for meningococcal virus - bills that NYACP was instrumental in getting passed through its strong advocacy efforts. The Committee also held a lively discussion centered on issues involving the NYS Physician Profile, medical marijuana, and aid in dying proposals.

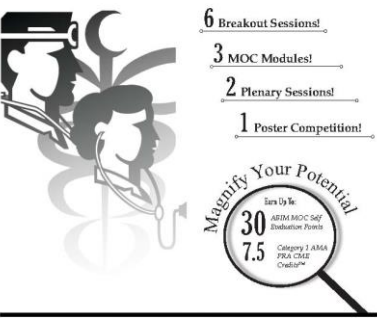
Concerns over the implementation of e-prescribing were raised, as medical centers and private practices alike face issues with implementation. NYACP will continue to monitor and document these issues as they are reported to us.

The next Health and Public Policy meeting will be in the fall on September 16, 2016, and the Chapter's Legislative visitation day will be held on April 11, 2016.

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## Education

**2016 New York Chapter ACP  
Annual Scientific Meeting**  
Saturday • June 4, 2016



6 Breakout Sessions!  
3 MOC Modules!  
2 Plenary Sessions!  
1 Poster Competition!

Magnify Your Potential  
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Register online: [www.nyacp.org](http://www.nyacp.org)  
Contact Karen Tucker: [ktucker@nyacp.org](mailto:ktucker@nyacp.org)  
Phone: (914) 937-0300

## Mark the Date and Block Out Your Schedule for The Chapter's Premier Annual Educational Event!

### 2016 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Westchester Hilton Hotel • 699 Westchester Avenue • Rye Brook,  
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7.5 AMA PRA Category I CME Credits™ • 3 SEP Sessions • 30 ABIM  
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[Online Agenda](#) • [Registration](#)

## Calling All Students and Residents!

### NYACP Abstract Competition - Online Abstract Submission Deadline is Friday, March 18 at 5:00 PM!

If you have worked on a research project or have an interesting clinical case, submit your abstract for a chance to present it at the New York ACP Poster Session at the Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting. Separate poster competitions for residents and medical students are held for entries in the following categories:

- Research
- Clinical Vignette
- Public policy/advocacy
- Quality, Patient safety/outcomes measurement

If your abstract is chosen, you will be invited to present your poster at the Meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, NY.

To Submit Your Abstract online, please go to: [Online Abstract Submission Forms](#)  
For additional information, please contact Karen Tucker at [ktucker@nyacp.org](mailto:ktucker@nyacp.org)

## NYACP Hudson Valley Capital District Meeting a Success

On Saturday, March 5, the Hudson Valley Capital District Meeting was held with a packed room at the Raddison Hotel on Wolf Road in Colonie. Over 35 physicians, doctor leaders, and medical students attended.



The 4-hour event was presented with support from IPRO, and 3.5 CME Credits were provided by Albany Medical College. The event centered around Sepsis, with Alan M. Sanders, MD presenting first on "Recognition of Potential Sepsis In The Outpatient Process." Andrew Coates, MD, FACP followed with "Recognition of Potential Sepsis In The Hospital Setting," and Amit Chopra, MD finished out the event with "Management of Sepsis." All three presenters participated in a lively question and answer session as all in attendance were actively engaged in the discussion.

## 2016 Dates to Remember District Meetings

- **Wednesday, March 16, 2016: Syracuse District Meeting**  
*6:00pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program*  
Craftsman Inn & Conference Center, 7300 East Genesee Street, Fayetteville  
NY 13066  
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)

