

February 18, 2016

ARE YOU READY?

E-Prescribing Implementation is Nearly Upon Us! Prepare Today with NYACP!

The **final date for implementation** of the New York State Law requiring E-Prescribing for both controlled and non-controlled substances is **March 27, 2016**.

Is your practice prepared?

If not, NYACP has a wealth of 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.](#)

Governor Cuomo Unveils New Tool to Guide New Yorkers in Addiction Treatment



On February 3, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched a new web-based service that will help connect New Yorkers struggling with addiction to treatment. The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services' [Bed Availability Dashboard](#) application collects bed availability from State-certified alcohol and substance use disorder treatment providers daily and makes it available in real-time on the agency's website. This new platform will allow all New Yorkers to easily determine treatment bed availability all across the state.

"This new resource will help New Yorkers struggling with addiction more easily obtain the help they need to begin the path to recovery," Governor Cuomo said. "This commonsense application will help change lives and put us on a path for a stronger and healthier New York."

The Bed Availability Dashboard allows New Yorkers to search for services in their region, as well as for treatment beds specific to age or gender. Providers will update information about available treatment beds on a 24/7 basis. The application will soon be updated to include outpatient services.

The Bed Availability Dashboard is the latest addition to Governor Cuomo's multi-pronged approach to addressing substance use disorders in New York State. Since Governor Cuomo signed historic legislation into law in 2014 to address the heroin and opioid crisis, many advances have been made to ensure individuals have access to the substance use disorder services they need, and that there are resources and supports for families and communities affected by addiction.

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the State's HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369). Find an OASAS-certified substance use disorder treatment provider on the [NYS OASAS Find Help web page](#).

Visit www.combatheroin.ny.gov for more information on addressing heroin and prescription opioid abuse, including a Kitchen Table Tool Kit to help start the conversation about the warning signs of addiction and where to get help. For additional tools to use in talking to a young person about preventing underage drinking or drug use, visit the State's [Talk2Prevent](#) website.

Practice Management

Health Commissioner Zucker Advises Safety Amidst Widespread Flu Season

(Excerpts of this article is courtesy of The Times Union)

Flu is widespread in New York, State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker announced recently.

The declaration triggers the requirement for health workers who have not been vaccinated to wear masks in areas where patients are likely to be. The rule is intended to prevent the spread of influenza to New Yorkers most vulnerable to complications from the virus. It prompts area hospitals to put in place visitor restrictions that are coordinated regionwide and will likely be similar to last year's.

As of last week 1,043 laboratory-confirmed cases of the flu were reported, a 77 percent increase over the previous week. Influenza has been responsible for sickening residents in 49 of the state's 62 counties.

Influenza may be a common disease in winter, with well-known symptoms, like sudden onset of fever, chills, headache and muscle aches, as well as a cough or sore throat. But it also can result in serious complications like pneumonia, especially among the very young, the very old and those with other medical conditions. This season, more than 800 New Yorkers have been hospitalized with flu.

The New York State Department of Health has issued these actions:

- Declaring that [health workers who have not been vaccinated](#) wear masks in areas where patients are likely to be
- Requiring physicians to report to DOH flu cases

In addition, [you can read the Department of Health recommendation here](#), and [frequently asked questions or other resources can be found here](#).

For more information, visit [NYACP's Patient Care and Education Page](#).

Visit the CMS Website to Apply for the EHR Incentive Program Hardship Exception For 2017



CMS has launched important changes to the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program hardship exception process that will reduce burdens on clinicians, hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs). These changes are a result of recent Medicare legislation – the Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (PAMPA), Pub. L. No. 114-115 – and the agency’s ongoing efforts to improve the program.

CMS has released an FAQ outlining the documentation requirements for submitting the new hardship application to avoid the 2017 payment adjustment.

[FAQ #14113](#) - On the new hardship application form for the 2017 payment adjustment there is nothing which says documentation is required to be submitted with the application form. Does this mean that CMS will only require the selection of a hardship category and the completion of the provider’s identifying information in order to approve a hardship exception? Or will CMS be reviewing the application and documentation on a case-by-case basis for each provider?

CMS does not require an eligible provider (EP), eligible hospital, or CAH – or any group of providers – to submit documentation for the hardship category selected and CMS will not be reviewing documentation supporting the application on a case-by-case basis. CMS will review the application to record the category selected and use the identifying information to approve the hardship exception for each provider listed on the application. Providers should retain documentation of their circumstances for their own records, but no such documentation is required for review by CMS.

CMS has also updated [FAQ #12845](#) to reflect these changes and to provide additional guidance specific to sub-category 2.2d of PAMPA – EHR Certification/Vendor Issues (certified electronic health record technology [CEHRT] Issues). This category can be used for issues related to the 2015 rulemaking timeline and is included under the existing category for extreme and uncontrollable circumstances related to the implementation and use of certified EHR technology.

Providers who experienced an issue with their CEHRT related to the rule timing – and any other provider for whom the timing of the rule caused a significant hardship – should select sub-category 2.2d on the 2017 hardship exception application. No additional documentation is required for this selection.

For More Information

To review the hardship exception application and instructions, visit the [Payment Adjustments and Hardship Information](#) page on the CMS website.

Advocacy

ACP Offers a 'Voter's Guide' to Health Care Issues

With the upcoming presidential election, the American College of Physicians is taking steps to keep members informed about health care issues that could come up during the campaign.

ACP staff members have created a new section on the College's website that's intended to give internists information to weigh when comparing candidates' positions on various health care topics as well as questions to consider when evaluating the candidates' positions. The College does not endorse candidates for elected public office nor take partisan stances. The information on the new web page is solely

educational, ACP officials noted.

The "Election 2016" web page highlights nine issues:

- Access to care
- Bending the cost curve
- Firearm violence
- Graduate medical education and workforce support
- Health insurance consolidation
- Medicaid and Medicare benefit reform
- Medical liability reform
- Affordable prescription drugs
- Payment and delivery system reform

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

Member Benefit

MLMIC Publishes a Special Edition of *Dateline* on End of Life Decisions



To highlight and address the importance of honoring end-of-life decisions made by patients, MLMIC has published a Special Edition of its [Dateline](#) Newsletter.

Patients have a right to accept or refuse treatment, including any or all life-sustaining treatment near the end of life, and this special issue addresses the physicians' medical, ethical and legal obligations to honor individual patient preferences.

MLMIC's *Dateline* publication, normally published twice a year, focuses on risk management issues and improving patient safety as well as keeping policyholders apprised of changes in underwriting procedures, legal matters, legislative affairs, and many other matters of interest to physicians and healthcare facilities.

NYACP continues to work with the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company (MLMIC) on issues of importance to our members as one of the Chapter's valuable membership benefits.

Education

Two New Educational Opportunities in Strategies for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Jointly Provided by the NYU Langone Medical Center and NYACP

Thursday, May 19, 2016

DIETARY STRATEGIES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RISK REDUCTION

12:30pm - 5:30pm

[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)

Friday, May 20, 2016

ADVANCES IN CARDIOVASCULAR RISK REDUCTION

7:45am - 3:45pm

[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)

Weekend Board Review Course

NYACP and Catholic Health Systems co-sponsored event

The NY Chapter ACP and Catholic Health Systems are co-sponsoring the Weekend Internal Medicine Board Review Course scheduled for **Saturday, March 12-Sunday March 13, 2016 in Buffalo, NY**. Chapter members who are preparing to take the exam for Board Re-certification and first-time Certification candidates can take advantage of this unique IM Board Review Course.



[Online Registration open](#) - *space is limited!*

- **Faculty:**
Conrad Fischer, MD, FACP
Chris Paras, DO
Niket Sonpal, MD
- **Course Content:**
This two-day course will cover the topics you need to review for the upcoming exams, including: General Internal Medicine, Neurology, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary, and Nephrology & Rheumatology.
- **Cost:**
The registration fee for this two-day program is \$375 per member or \$200 per Resident member, which includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch. *Space is limited and going quickly, so please register early.*

To Register:

- **Online:** [Register Here!](#)
- **By Mail:** Please send a check payable to NYACP or credit card information with the [Brochure](#) to:
NYACP
744 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
- **By Fax:**
Fax [Brochure](#) with credit card information to: 518-427-1991

Need additional information?

Please contact Karen Tucker at ktucker@nyacp.org or 518-427-0366.

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, NY 10573
7.5 AMA PRA Category I CME Credits™ • 3 SEP Sessions • 30 ABIM MOC Points

[Online Agenda](#) • [Registration](#)

Calling All Students and Residents!

NYACP Abstract Competition - *Online Abstract Submission is 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

2016 Dates to Remember

District Meetings

- **Saturday, March 5, 2016: Hudson Valley Capital District Meeting**
8:30am Registration and Breakfast • 9:00am Educational Program
Raddison Hotel Albany, 205 Wolf Road, Albany NY 12205
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **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](#)

