

## EDUCATION

### Save the Date for the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting

The New York Chapter American College of Physicians (NYACP) Governors' Council invites you to join your colleagues in Internal Medicine at the next NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting to be held on **Friday, March 21, 2014** at the **Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York. A Board Review Course will be offered Saturday, March 22 - Sunday, March 23, 2014.**

Who should plan to attend? Internists (General & Subspecialty); Fellows in Subspecialty Training; Family Practitioners; Residents; Medical Students; and Allied Health Professionals.

Build your own schedule and obtain credit toward your American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification (MOC). New York ACP faculty will present ABIM Self Evaluation Process Modules on: 2013 Update in Gastroenterology; 2013 Update in Hospital Medicine; 2013 Update in Infectious Disease.

Preliminary details and information regarding the meeting schedule is available online. Registration is coming soon! <http://www.nyacp.org/annualmeeting>

#### ABOUT THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL

Adam's Mark Buffalo is located one half-mile from event venues First Niagara Center and Coca-Cola Field. Cultural attractions, such as Shea's Performing Arts Center and Pierce - Arrow Museum, are also within a half-mile of this downtown Buffalo hotel.

## ADVOCACY

### NYSDOH Issues Statement on Delays in Processing Health Commerce System (HCS) Accounts

The new ISTOP Law went into effect this week. In order to comply practitioners prescribing controlled substances (Schedules II-IV) must have an active HCS Account.

For practitioners who are experiencing a slight delay in processing HCS accounts, the NYS Department of Health has issued the following statement:

"The updated Prescription Monitoring Program Registry is operational and has been available on-line since June 12, 2013. All users must access the PMP Registry through the Department of Health's secure Health Commerce System ("HCS"). With the upcoming effective date of the I-STOP law requiring the use of the PMP Registry, a large late surge of practitioners are now submitting requests for HCS accounts. Although the Department of Health is working diligently to process all requests, this significant influx has resulted in a delay in processing accounts.

**During this transition period, practitioners who are making a good faith effort to apply but are unable to establish HCS accounts, should continue to provide treatment to their patients in the same manner as they currently do, including the prescribing of controlled substances without accessing PMP Registry. We expect this transition period to last through October."**

## QUALITY

### Resources that Help Physicians Provide Eye Health Information

Physicians can play a significant role in the visual health of their patients. Patients frequently look to their physicians for guidance in managing aspects of eye health; for example, in a recent focus group by the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) for people with diabetes, most participants reported that their primary care physician was their most trusted source for health information.

To help physicians promote eye health among patients, NEHEP has created many educational resources and tools including:

- Handouts and fact sheets that discuss various eye diseases and the importance of having a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year;
- Teaching tools that healthcare professionals and community health workers can use to inform people about eye diseases;
- E-cards that can be sent to patients with eye diseases, reminding them of the need for annual dilated eye exams;
- Print public service announcements for use in newsletters, publications, or websites; and
- Live-read scripts that can be recorded and played by phone when patients are on hold.

All of these resources can be found online: <http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeystoolkit/index.asp>

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