

August 3, 2017

Practice Management

New York Establishes a No-Cost Pilot Drug Take-Back Program



Nationwide, 80% of lakes, rivers and streams now contain low levels of pharmaceuticals. Chronic exposure to low levels of medications in the environment, even expired medications, has been shown to harm the fertility of fish and other aquatic animals. Most current municipal wastewater treatment technology is ineffective in intercepting drugs when they are flushed down the toilet. Moreover, unwanted prescription drugs that remain in consumers' homes are at risk of being abused.

For these reasons, New York State is funding a one million dollar drug take-back program to encourage health care entities to provide for the safe, convenient and effective collection of unused drugs. Health care entities who sign up early can get the costs of their drug take-back programs covered for the first two years of operation.

[Full article on nixonpeabody.com here »](#)

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and in the interest of increasing immunization rates, NYACP offers internists the following resources:

- [Immunization patient education materials](#);
- ACP's [I Raise the Rates](#) initiative to increase adult immunization rates in primary care (it includes [webinars](#) and [videos](#) that cover the latest vaccine recommendations and how to use the entire health care team in organizing immunization services);
- Examples of [quality improvement projects in adult immunization](#);
- The [ACP Practice Advisor Adult Immunization Module](#) within ACP's Practice Advisor, which focuses on steps that staff in primary care offices can take to improve the rates of immunization; and
- [ACP Adult Immunization & Quality Improvement for Residents](#), featuring evidence-based strategies for increasing vaccination rates.

ACP advises adults to get an annual flu vaccine and to use that opportunity to discuss with their internist other vaccinations they might need, including Tdap, pneumococcal, HPV, hepatitis B, and herpes zoster.

ACP encourages internists to assess their patients' vaccination needs at each office visit to ensure they are up to date on the last [recommended adult immunization](#)

[schedule issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#), published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

In addition, here are useful immunization links from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH):

- [NYSDOH Vaccine and Immunization Information](#)
- [List of New York City Immunization reporting](#)

CMS To Issue New Medicare Card in April 2018

CMS is removing Social Security Numbers from Medicare cards to help fight identity theft and safeguard patients. It was previously reported that in April 2018 cards will change from the Social Security Number based Health Insurance Claim Number to the randomly generated Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (the new Medicare number). Until now, CMS has referred to this work as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI), however CMS now refers to this project as the New Medicare Card.



To help physicians find information quickly, CMS designed a new homepage linking to the latest details, including how to [talk to your Medicare patients](#) about the new Medicare Card. Bookmark the [New Medicare Card](#) homepage and [Provider](#) webpage, and visit often, so you have the information you need to be ready by April 1.

New ACP Practice Advisor Modules Address Advance Care Planning, Preventing Stroke in AFIB



ACP Practice Advisor has released two new modules to improve patient care: Practical Advice for Advance Care Planning and Preventing Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation. These and other modules are available now for [ACP Practice Advisor members](#).

The [Practical Advice for Advance Care Planning](#) module offers help for physicians engaging with patients and their potential surrogate decision makers to ensure that patients receive care that is consistent with their values, goals, and preferences. The [Preventing Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation](#) module helps clinicians identify patients with atrial fibrillation.

Successful completion of this activity enables the participant to earn CME and MOC Practice Assessment points.

If you are not an ACP Practice Advisor user, [register now at PracticeAdvisor.org](#).

NYC Department of Health Seeks Member for CRC Screening Guidelines Committee

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is in the process of revising their colon cancer screening guidelines, and is seeking an NYACP member who is interested in CRC screening guidelines and implementation of guidelines in clinical practice. The

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is looking for that member to join their screening guidelines committee to provide input.

If you are interested or have any questions, please send a CV or note of interest with contact information to Linda Lambert at llambert@nyacp.org

Statin Prescriptions Lower Incidence of Cardiac Events, Study Shows

Excerpt from ACP Internist

Patients who continued to receive statin prescriptions after an adverse reaction had a 10% to 20% lower incidence of both cardiovascular events and death from any cause, a study found.

Researchers conducted a retrospective cohort study among primary care practices affiliated with two academic medical centers that treated patients who had an [adverse reaction to a statin](#) between 2000 and 2011. Adverse reactions included myalgias, myopathies, or other musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders; drug intolerance; and hepatobiliary, gastrointestinal, or nervous system disorders, among other events. The primary composite outcome was time to a myocardial infarction or stroke, or to death. Results were published July 26 by Annals of Internal Medicine.

A total of 28,266 patients were included in the study. Of these, 19,989 (70.7%) continued receiving statin prescriptions after the adverse reaction and 8,277 did not. Four years after the presumed adverse event, the cumulative incidence of the composite primary outcome was 12.2% for patients with continued statin prescriptions, compared with 13.9% for those without them (difference, 1.7%; 95% CI, 0.8% to 2.7%; $P < 0.001$). In a secondary analysis of 7,604 patients for whom a different statin was prescribed after the adverse reaction, 2,014 (26.5%) had a documented adverse reaction to the second statin, but 1,696 (84.2%) of those patients continued receiving statin prescriptions.

To read the entire article, [please click here](#).

Member Benefits

Auto Insurance Reduction Course

Do you have points on your driving record or would you like a 10% reduction on your personal automobile insurance?

If so, you will want to read about the online Auto Insurance Reduction Course that is currently available as an exclusive NYACP benefit to our members and others!

NYACP continues to offer a 6-hour Insurance and Point Reduction Course that is approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles and available to NYACP members, their families, office staff and friends. This convenient online member benefit allows registered "students" the ability to start and finish the course within 30 days for only \$42.00. The benefit includes a 10% reduction on your automobile insurance (liability, no-fault and collision) and up to 4 points off of your driving record (if applicable).

More information can be found [by clicking here](#).



Lower Your Car Insurance Rates
6 hr Online Course - NYACP Member Benefit

- No Classroom Required
- Up to 30 Days to Complete
- Up to 10% Insurance Reduction
- Up to 4 Points Off Driving Record

> Start Course

Provided by American Safety, Inc. 028

Education

District Meetings

Bronx: Wednesday, August 16, 2017

IMG Symposium 2017

1. Residency Application and Interviews
2. Externship Opportunities
3. Primary Care Pathway (former NP-MD Programs)
4. Support Network and Organized Medicine

Jacobi Medical Center - Building 4 - 2nd Floor Conference Room

1400 Pelham Parkway South • Bronx, NY 10461

6:00pm Registration / 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program

[Event Flyer](#)

RSVP to internship@essenmd.com or by calling (929) 239-4160

Commissioner's Medical Grand Rounds Archived Video Seminars

Online video Grand Rounds co-sponsored by NYACP and archived by the New York State Department of Health are available for your review. By accessing these videos at your convenience, you can receive CME credits:

- Dietary Supplements: Buyer Beware, Provider Be Wary (*1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*)
- Baby Boomer Health: Undiagnosed conditions of persons born between 1945 and 1965 (*1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*)
- Technology Changes Our Connection: Physician and Patient Communication (*2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*)
- From A to Zika: An Update on Zika Virus for Primary Care Providers (*2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*)

The School of Public Health, University at Albany is accredited by the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

[To access the courses click here.](#)
