

October 26, 2017

## Practice Management

### 14th National Drug Take-Back Day is October 28

Proper disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications is important to protect both people and the environment. Unused prescription and over-the-counter medications that remain in the home can cause serious harm to people if they are taken accidentally, intentionally misused or inappropriately given to someone else. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. Unused medications that are flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink can enter the water supply, harming fish and other wildlife and posing a potential risk to people.



We encourage all medical practitioners to discuss the proper disposal of unused medications with their patients. If a collection site needs to be located, please use this link:

[Locate a Collection Site Near You](#)

### Telehealth to Take Front and Center Role in New York Medicaid Managed Care

Last month, the Division of Health Plan Contracting and Oversight of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued guidance clarifying the important role of telehealth in Medicaid Managed Care (Telehealth Guidance). The Telehealth Guidance recognizes the important role telehealth can play to “close gaps in coverage and care and to offer Medicaid patients an alternative means to access needed services.” The Telehealth Guidance clarifies that telehealth services are covered by Medicaid Managed Care Plans to the extent such services are medically appropriate and permissible under state and federal regulations. Both tele-psychiatry and home health telehealth services—provided by certified home health agencies and long-term home health care programs—for patients with conditions requiring frequent monitoring are covered services within the current Medicaid Managed Care construct.



[Read the article in its entirety here.](#)

### MLMIC's Fall DATELINE Publication Now Available!

The Fall 2017 issue of MLMIC's *Dateline*<sup>®</sup> newsletter is now available. Published twice a year (spring and fall), *Dateline*<sup>®</sup> focuses on risk management issues and improving patient safety, as well as keeping MLMIC policyholders apprised of changes in underwriting procedures, legal matters, legislative affairs, and many other matters of interest to physicians and healthcare facilities.

Article highlights contained in the Fall 2017 *Dateline*<sup>®</sup> include:

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- A cover story about the use of unlicensed medical assistants in the physician's office;
- A case study about a dermatologist who was sued for an employee's negligent laser treatment;
- An underwriting update related to legal defense cost coverage endorsements;
- Recommendations for responding to unflattering online reviews;
- A risk management tip on proper use of patient portals; and
- Notes on additions to [MLMIC's Research Library](#).

NYACP is proud to partner with MLMIC and this publication is an excellent example of MLMIC's value, serving as an added and highly regarded member benefit. [Read more about the benefits MLMIC here.](#)

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## New York DOH Weekly Influenza Report

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) collects, compiles, and analyzes information on influenza activity year round in New York State and produces this weekly report during the influenza season (October through the following May).



During the week ending October 14, 2017:

- Influenza activity level was categorized as geographically sporadic. Sporadic activity has been reported for two consecutive weeks.
- There were 47 laboratory-confirmed influenza reports, an 7% increase over last week.
- Of the 1,199 specimens submitted to NYS WHO/NREVSS laboratories, 15 (.089%) were positive for influenza.
- None of the specimens submitted to the Wadsworth center were positive for influenza.
- Reports of percent of patient visits or influenza-like illness (ILI<sup>3</sup>) from ILINet providers was 1.33%, which is below the regional baseline of 3.00%.
- The number of patients hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza was 15, an 21% decrease over last week.
- There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported this week, and none yet this season.

[Read the entire report here.](#)

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## Early Career Physicians: ACP Now Accepting Applications for Travel Grants to 2018 Annual Meeting

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting [applications](#) for the ACP Travel Grants Program.



This exciting program provides \$2,000 grants to selected early career ACP Members or Fellows so they may attend ACP Internal Medicine Meeting 2018. The meeting will be held from April 19 through April 21 in New Orleans, LA. In addition to the travel grant, recipients also receive complimentary registration to the meeting. To be eligible, an applicant must be a [dues-paid](#) Member or Fellow of the College, graduated from medical school within the last sixteen years, and living in the United States. As long as [dues](#) are paid for this current membership year, you are eligible to apply for this opportunity.

In awarding grants, priority will be given to applicants attending their first meeting, physicians serving in rural or underserved communities, physicians of diverse backgrounds, and those without a significant source for CME funding.

To apply, simply complete this [online application](#), include a 500-word essay on how attending the meeting will benefit you and the patients you serve, and attach your curriculum vitae. All materials are due by November 17, 2017. If selected, you must agree to attend all three days of the meeting and to participate in a designated number of College activities.

If you have any questions, please email [mbrdev@acponline.org](mailto:mbrdev@acponline.org).

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## Education

### Take-a-Look Tour Exposes Residents and Medical Students to Practice Opportunities in Upstate New York

NYACP, in collaboration with Iroquois Healthcare Association, conducted its 5th multi-day tour designed to help address the critical physician shortage in upstate areas. All seven participants including medical students and residents are currently located in the downstate area, and they made the trip to the Syracuse and Binghamton regions to explore the geographic amenities and practice opportunities available.

The Take-a-Look Tour visited a variety of hospital and practice settings. The group also participated in a mentor dinner with physician leaders in the Binghamton area, and enjoyed several leisure activities that highlighted local industry and the natural beauty of communities in the region.

Thanks to the following NYACP physician leaders who shared their career and personal experiences: David Duggan, MD, MACP; Lynn Cleary, MD, FACP; Sharon Brangman, MD, FACP; Jef Schneider, MD, FACP; Frank Floyd, MD, FACP; Jose Gil, MD, FACP; Amr Shady, MD, FACP; Harris, MD, FACP. Their mentoring at the variety of stops was the most highly valued aspect of the tour.



*Dr. Cleary speaks to tour participants at SUNY Upstate*

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## District Meetings

### Rochester: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind

(1) Latest Healthcare News from the State Capitol: An Advocacy Update

(2) NYS Advanced Primary Care and Practice Transformation  
Hyatt Regency Rochester

125 East Main Street

Rochester, NY 14604

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

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

### Queens: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind

(1) NYS Advanced Primary Care and Practice Transformation

(2) Medication Adherence in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

LIJ Forest Hills Hospital - Conference Room, 9th Floor

102-01 66th Road

Forest Hills, NY 11375

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

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

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## Commissioner's Grand Medical Rounds: Pain Management and Medical Marijuana

Monday, October 30th, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Flushing Hospital Medical Center – Medical Science Building, 5th Floor, Auditorium  
4500 Parsons Blvd (at the corner of 45th Ave and Burling Street)  
Flushing, NY 11355

The purpose of this presentation is to enhance the learner's knowledge of cannabinoids and their pharmacology, demonstrate how medical marijuana may fit into medical practice for pain management, explain safety, potential risks and benefits of medical marijuana use, provide information on the effect marijuana may have on opioid use and opioid related risks, and discuss the regulatory requirements of the Medical Marijuana Program in New York State. Practitioners will have the opportunity to ask questions of the Department and physicians currently using these treatments to help patients.

[Please click here to attend in-person or via the live webinar.](#)

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