

EDUCATION

Geriatrics Task Force Activities

This Chapter task force has been investigating medical literature on evidence-based disease treatment in the 80+ population and found it is very limited. During the next several months, task force members will be drafting a summary, with references, of the current literature on treatment of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes in the 80+ population as a resource for Chapter members. In the coming year the Geriatrics Task Force plans to focus on education for physicians who care for the elderly through webinars and local district meetings; will continue to focus on better information and guidelines in the treatment of 80+ populations, and ways to recognize excellence in geriatric care.

Save the Date! Meet in Buffalo! Friday-Sunday, March 21-24, 2014

Earn the credits you need to maintain your CME and Internal Medicine Board Certification or recertification. This educational opportunity will only be offered one time in 2014, and you can earn up to 20 ABIM MOC Credits and up to 25.5 CME credits if you attend Board review. There will be three 2013 ABIM SEP Course Updates: Gastroenterology, Infectious Disease and Hospital Medicine. These sessions are offered at a significant discount to Chapter members.

See the program schedule to determine which programs best fit your needs and to register
<http://www.nyacp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3530>

ADVOCACY

New York State Department of Health Issues Information on its Health Innovations Grant

The NYS Dept of Health released its draft of the State Health Innovation Plan and will accept public comments through November 27th. With goals to achieve or maintain top-quartile performance among states for adoption of best practices and outcomes in disease prevention and health improvement within five years, achieve high quality consumer experience, reduce avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions and generate savings by reducing unnecessary care and shifting care to appropriate settings, five strategies are incorporated in the draft:

- 1) Improving access for all, without disparity
- 2) Integrating care to meet consumer needs seamlessly
- 3) Transparency in healthcare cost and quality
- 4) Paying for value, not volume; and
- 5) Strengthening linkages between primary care, community resources and health policies.

The full draft can be viewed http://www.health.ny.gov/technology/innovation_plan_initiative/index.htm.

This document is important to all physicians as it sets in place plans for future planning and financing of health care in our State. We encourage our members to share your comments on this draft for incorporation into the Chapter's official response.

QUALITY

New Requirement for Offer of HEP C Screening

A new law goes into effect on January 1, 2014 which will require the offering of a hepatitis C screening test to every individual born between 1945 and 1965 receiving inpatient hospital care or primary care in New York State.

This law is based upon recommendations issued by CDC and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Exceptions to the mandatory offering include:

- if the individual is being treated for a life-threatening emergency
- if the individual has previously been offered or has been the subject of a hepatitis C screening or
- if the individual lacks capacity to consent

The law further requires that if an individual accepts the test offer and the screening test is reactive, the facility, physician, PA or NP must either offer the individual follow-up health care or refer the individual to another provider who can provide such care.

For additional information, go to the State Department of Health website (www.nyhealth.gov) or the New York City Health Department website (www.nyc.gov/health).

Questions regarding the HCV testing law may be sent to: hepatabc@health.state.ny.us

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