

November 22, 2017

Advocacy

CMS Joins ACP in Efforts to Put Patients Before Paperwork



Two newly announced programs from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services aim to reduce the administrative burdens that government programs place on doctors, lining up with the American College of Physician's advocacy goals.

For one of the programs, CMS has indicated it would evaluate, and then amend, existing regulations so that doctors can spend more of their time treating patients. CMS officials are slated to travel the country to gather the information needed to do this. The program's name -- "Patients Over Paperwork" -- echoes ACP's existing initiative, called "Patients Before Paperwork." This initiative has been in place since 2015, and in May, its position paper on the topic, "Putting Patients First by Reducing Administrative Tasks in Health Care," was published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. [You can read more about ACP's initiative here.](#)

The second CMS program, called "Meaningful Measures," aims to streamline various regulatory issues by eliminating those that are deemed overly burdensome or do not advance patient care.

To help make sure that internists are heard as CMS fleshes out the new initiatives, Shari Erickson, ACP's Vice President for Governmental Affairs and Medical Practice suggested that members "share with us what are they seeing and what are they doing, along with their practice characteristics, and we will use this information as feedback to the agencies."

Members can provide that information through a data collection tool on the College's website. ACP's data collection tool, ["Administrative Tasks and Best Practices Survey"](#), can be completed on the ACP website.

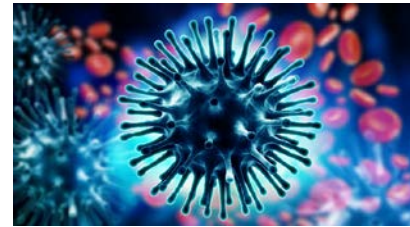
ACP Updates "Living with Diabetes" Patient Guidebook

ACP has updated its popular guidebook, "Living with Diabetes: An Everyday Guide for You and Your Family," with new visuals and a redesigned layout that's easier for patients to read. This award-winning guidebook helps patients learn about and manage diabetes. Topics include diet, exercise, monitoring blood sugar, the importance of foot exams, and managing insulin and other medicines.

- ACP offers a wide variety of resources for members. You can visit their [resources page here](#). (*log-in required*)
- NYACP also offers its own resources for members, which can be [accessed here](#). (*log-in required*)

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 November 10, 2017:

- Influenza activity level was categorized as geographically sporadic. Sporadic activity has been reported for six consecutive weeks.
- There were 119 laboratory-confirmed influenza reports, an 11% increase over last week.
- Of the 1,320 specimens submitted to NYS WHO/NREVSS laboratories, 17 (1.29%) were positive for influenza.
- Of the 16 specimens submitted to the Wadsworth Center, six were positive for influenza. Five were influenza A (H3), and one was influenza B (Yamagata).
- Reports of percent of patient visits or influenza-like illness (ILI³) from ILINet providers was 1.93%, which is below the regional baseline of 3.10%.
- The number of patients hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza was 37, a 12% decrease over last week.
- There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported this week, and none yet this season.

[Read the entire report here.](#)

Education

Highlights of the Winning Abstracts from the Chapter's October 28th Poster Competition

(This is first in a series of poster competition highlights)



Winner: Resident/Fellow Clinical Vignette

WHERE THERE IS A SMOKE THERE IS THROMBOSIS

Author: Fitsumberhan Medhane, MD, Jacobi Medical Center

Additional Authors: Hanane Ben Faras MD, Maday Gonzalez, MD

Background:

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is one of the most common types of poisoning. It can be underdiagnosed as it can present with non-specific symptoms: nausea, vomiting, headache, chest pain and fatigue. We present a case study of a couple who presented with CO poisoning to emphasize the importance of early recognition of CO poisoning and its potentially fatal pro-thrombotic complications.

Case 1:

53-year-old woman with hypertension and anxiety was transferred to our facility for CO poisoning. A few days prior to presentation, the patient was experiencing headache, dizziness and fatigue. She was evaluated at an outside ED and was diagnosed with viral syndrome. The following day she was found down in her apartment. The patient recalled turning on the gas furnace earlier that week. She was anxious, confused and complaining of chest pain. Initial CoHgb was 14.3% (normal 0-5%). Troponin was elevated and the EKG showed ST depression in II, III, aVF, and V4-V6, and ST elevation in aVR. She was treated for acute coronary syndrome and transferred to our facility for hyperbaric oxygen treatment. The patient received hyperbaric treatment with a significant improvement in her mental status but continued to have chest pain. She underwent cardiac catheterization that revealed significant one vessel disease of mid LAD and moderate distal CFX disease. A single drug eluting stent was placed in the LAD. The patient eventually improved and was discharged home.

Case 2:

53 year-old male with hypertension who presented with his partner (described in case 1) with CO poisoning. The patient was initially confused but later gave history of progressively feeling weak and dizzy a few days prior to presentation. His mental status improved after receiving hyperbaric treatment, but later he reported bilateral thigh pain, left leg pain and pleuritic chest pain. Physical exam was unremarkable. Labs and imaging were consistent with rhabdomyolysis, bilateral DVT and sub-massive PE. Otherwise, troponin, BNP, EKG and coagulopathy studies were all unremarkable. He was treated with anticoagulation and discharged on Apixaban.

Discussion: These cases demonstrate acute CO poisoning with a thrombotic complications. Carbon monoxide is directly toxic to the mitochondria and endothelial cells, consequently triggering ischemia, as well as arterial and venous thrombosis. The risk of DVT is 3.85 times higher in patients with CO poisoning than in the general population.

Common presentations of CO poisoning include dizziness, confusion, headaches and flu-like symptoms. Larger exposure can lead to significant neurological, myocardial, renal and pro-thrombotic complications. Clinicians should be trained to recognize the early signs of CO poisoning and to detect life threatening complications (hypoxic and

pro-thrombotic). Thorough history taking can prevent discharging patients back to harmful environments which can further worsen their prognosis.

Call for Papers: 2018 Poster Competition - Online Forms are Now Available!

Do you want your winning abstract to be featured in a future NYACP Newsletter?

The next NYACP poster competition takes place at the Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, New York. If you have worked on a research project or have an interesting clinical case, submit your abstract!

Separate poster competitions for residents and medical students will be held for entries in the following categories:

- Research
- Clinical Vignette

Residents/Fellows and Medical Students will be combined in the following category:

- Quality, Advocacy and Public Policy Category

If your abstract is chosen during the preliminary judging phase, you will be invited to present your poster at the NYACP Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Hilton Westchester Hotel. Deadline to submit abstracts is Friday, March 2, 2018.

[To find out more please click here.](#)

District Meetings

Buffalo: Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind

(1) Immunization: Not Just for Kids

(2) Taking USPSTF Guidelines to Heart: Statins and Aspirin

(3) NYS Advanced Primary Care (APC) and Practice Transformation

Rizoto Ristorante • 930 Maple Road • Williamsville, NY 14221

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

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



Upcoming 2018 Meetings

SAVE-THE-DATE

Hudson Valley Central (Fishkill, NY) - Saturday, January 20, 2018

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Sessions

(offering CME Credit and MOC Points)

(1) Update in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (8:00am-10:00am)

(2) Update in Geriatric Medicine (10:30am-12:30pm)

Ramada Conference Center (Kristopher Room) - 542 Rt. 9, Fishkill NY 12524

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

SAVE-THE-DATE

Manhattan - Saturday, February 10, 2018

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Sessions

(offering CME Credit and MOC Points)

(1) Update in Hospital Medicine (8:00am-10:00am)

(2) Update in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (10:30am-12:30pm)

Location: TBD

Additional information will be posted shortly.

SAVE-THE-DATE

Buffalo - Saturday, March 31, 2018

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Sessions
(offering CME Credit and MOC Points)

(1) Update in Geriatric Medicine (8:00am-10:00am)

(2) Update in Internal Medicine (10:30am-12:30pm)

Location: TBD

Additional information will be posted shortly.

Webinars

Find Out More About the New Meaningful Measures Initiative

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST

Register: [Here](#)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma recently [announced](#) a new approach to quality measurement, called “Meaningful Measures.” The Meaningful Measures Initiative will involve identifying the highest priorities to improve patient care through quality measurement and quality improvement efforts. On November 28, Dr. Pierre Yong, Director of the Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group (QMVIG) in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality at CMS, and Dr. Theodore Long, Acting Senior Medical Officer of QMVIG, will explain the new initiative.

Please note: Space for this webinar is limited. Register now to secure your spot.

CMS Innovation Center Medicare Quality Payment Program Year 2 Final Rule – All-Payer Combination Option Webinar

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Register: [Here](#)

The CMS Innovation Center will host an overview webinar on the Medicare Quality Payment Program Year 2 final rule, with a focus on the participation of non-Medicare payers through the All-Payer Combination Option. Non-Medicare payers includes Medicaid, Medicare Health Plans, and payers participating in CMS Multi-Payer models. This event is for all CMS Innovation Center model participants, their partnering providers and the general public. Join the webinar to hear CMS policy experts provide an overview of the All-Payer Combination Option requirements for the Quality Payment Program.

Member Recognition



Lynn Cleary, MD, FACP, Current NYACP Co-President - Dr. Cleary recently received the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) annual meeting November 5 in Boston. The award recognizes faculty members who have distinguished themselves in medical education. Dr. Cleary is Professor of Medicine and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. [To watch the video detailing her award, please click here.](#)

Congratulations Dr. Cleary!



Sima Pendharkar, MD, FACP - Dr. Pendharkar was recently named a Top Hospitalist for 2017 by the American College of Physicians for her work in using technology to engage patients. As CEO and founder of Valeet Healthcare, her own health IT company, she is working to streamline diagnosis by using data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to process and synthesize information "so that doctors can focus on the important piece, which is interacting with the patient and making those connections," she said. [To read more about her nomination and work, please click here.](#)

Congratulations Dr. Pendharkar!

Member Benefits

Update on MLMIC Acquisition by Berkshire Hathaway

PARTNERING WITH NYACP
GET MORE THAN A POLICY



In an effort to keep Chapter members up to date on the Berkshire Hathaway transaction with MLMIC, our endorsed Medical Liability Insurance Provider, and to address questions that are often asked, MLMIC has updated the FAQ information, which you can find [here](#).

Specifically, they have updated the following:

- Question 5: Who receives cash consideration if the eligible policyholder designates a Policy Administrator, or is a designated Employer on an Employee Professional Liability Insurance Policy.
- Question 13: We now expect the transaction to close in the first quarter of 2018, due to ongoing, diligent review by DFS of the information required under NYIL 7307, which is designed to protect the interests of the policyholders and the public.

As always, if you have additional questions beyond those on MLMIC's [FAQ](#), please call 1-888-998-7871 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

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 member benefit.

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
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- Up to 4 Points Off Driving Record

> Start Course

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