

December 9, 2015

An Update on Enforcement of E-Prescribing

Effective March 27, 2016, electronic prescribing for both controlled and non-controlled substances will be required in New York State. This mandate does not apply to veterinarians. Electronic prescribing of both controlled and non-controlled substances is **currently permissible in New York but mandatory as of 3/27/16**.

In order to process electronic prescriptions for controlled substances (EPCS), a prescriber must select and use a certified electronic prescribing computer application that meets all federal requirements. **Each unique certified computer application used to electronically prescribe controlled substances must first be registered by the practitioner with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE).**

Please be aware that implementation timelines for EPCS software vary and may be lengthy. If you have not already begun this process, BNE strongly recommends that you begin immediately.

Prescribers who have certified EPCS software and have completed the registration process are highly encouraged to immediately begin electronically prescribing instead of using paper, to allow for time to resolve technical or workflow issues prior to the mandate's effective date.

Useful information related to electronic prescribing, including frequently asked questions, information regarding the EPCS registration process, and a downloadable patient-centered brochure to help your patients better understand electronic prescribing can be found on our website at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic.

If you have any questions about the electronic prescribing mandate, please call 1-866-811-7957, option 1.

Also available is the waiver request process. However, the waiver request process is nearing completion and is currently in testing. As soon as the waiver process information is available, we will send out notices to the membership.

Sincerely,

Joshua Vinciguerra
Director
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

NYACP Receives 2015 ACP Chapter Excellence Award

NYACP is pleased to announce receipt of the 2015 Chapter Excellence Award from ACP!



The award recognizes chapters which successfully meet the standards for managing a chapter. In order to achieve the Chapter Excellence Award, chapters must meet all basic criteria and seven optional criteria. Criteria include such activities as formulating an effective Council/Board and committees, communicating frequently with the membership, providing educational opportunities, recruiting and advancing members and celebrating membership through local awards. The Chapter has consistently and consecutively achieved this special Award since the Award's inception.

A special thank you to those NYACP members who assisted the Chapter in any these endeavors!

Practice Management

File by Dec. 16 to Avoid Medicare Pay Cut of 2-4 %

Practices that may have thought they were safe from Medicare payment penalties next year could be in for an unpleasant surprise if they don't take action now.

Problems with how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been collecting and analyzing data related to the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and the value-based payment modifier are leading to inappropriate penalties of 2-4 percent of Medicare payments for thousands of physicians.

How to avoid the penalty: [File an informal review request](#) with CMS before midnight EST on Dec. 16. CMS has said it will verify incentive eligibility and payment adjustment determinations for practices that file such a request.

Additional information about the process and contact information for questions is available in CMS' [informal review fact sheet](#).

Note: CMS has said the informal review system will be down Dec. 3-7 and unable to accept requests during that time.

Path to Professional Recognition: 116 New York Members Elected to ACP Fellowship in 2015

In 2015, 116 ACP members achieved Fellowship with the College. **Congratulations to the [New York ACP Fellows](#) that were elected this year!**

Fellowship in the College is an honor. Being an FACP is a mark of esteem from colleagues who recognize accomplishments and achievements over and above the practice of medicine.

ACP Fellowship is primarily achieved through advancement from ACP Membership. Fellows are authorized to use the letters FACP (Fellow of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current. FACP is a federally registered service mark and is defined as providing recognition by way of an honorific. Fellows of the American College of Physicians have the right to vote, hold office, and sponsor applicants for Membership and Fellowship.

If you are not an ACP Fellow, but have been an ACP member for two or more years (post residency), we encourage you to further explore the [current criteria](#) and application process.

Did You Receive a Green Postcard from National Government Services?

On November 12, 2015, National Government Services (NGS) mailed green-colored postcards to all eligible physicians, practitioners and suppliers announcing the 2016 Medicare participation open enrollment and instructions for obtaining the 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedules (MPFS) [on their website](#).

The purpose of the postcard is to inform physicians that the enrollment period to change participation or nonparticipation status is open through December 31, 2015 and announce the availability of the 2016 MPFS.

Please note: Medicare no longer mails copies of the participation package or the Medicare Physician Fee Schedules (MPFS). More information is available on the [Announcement about Medicare Participation for Calendar Year 2016](#).

Open Enrollment

- If you do not plan to change your current participation in the Medicare Program for 2016, **no further action is required**
- If you plan to change your participation status for 2016, a news article is posted to our website with instructions titled, "[Enrollment Period to Change Participating or Nonparticipating Status](#)."

Fee Schedules

The 2016 MPFS is available at www.NGSMedicare.com; from the **Part B** home page click on the **Fee Schedule Lookup** tab. The fee schedules are posted by State and Locality via the dropdown menu. You have the option of obtaining the fees on an individual procedure code basis or you can download the entire fee schedule for a particular locality, available in an Excel Spreadsheet or a CSV file.

The [fee schedule assistance](#) page provides access to information about fee schedule definitions and acronyms.

- [New York Locality/Area and County Information](#)
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Quality

Buyer Beware - An Important Message from MLMIC



Recent information indicates that there are now over 40 insurers competing for medical liability insurance in NYS. Sometimes, either through investigation or by chance, it is discovered that premium quotes can appear too good to be true.

Possible reasons might be that insurers are actually providing less coverage, shifting coverage from occurrence to claims made, or offering an attractive discount that may not be sustainable. **If a quote seems too good to be true, we suggest that you give MLMIC a call at (716) 648-5923.** MLMIC is always willing and available to speak with you directly, and they can be very helpful in identifying the similarities and/or differences that impact the costs associated with medical liability insurance. As the Chapter's endorsed Medical Liability Carrier, we encourage you to call upon MLMIC's 40 years of experience.

NYACP continues to work with the [Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company](#) (MLMIC) - a mutual professional liability insurance company owned by the healthcare providers it insures to bring you information on liability trends, resources and assistance.

NYACP Presents Career Link - Serving as the Bridge Between Physicians and Career Opportunities

NYACP recently re-launched its Career Link page, a fantastic opportunity for employers to post open positions to prospective job seekers, and for those looking for employment to post their contact information.

Job listings and contacts for those seeking jobs will be posted on a monthly basis.

The \$100 per month listing fee entitles you to:

- A listing up to 200 words
- Posting in 2 issues of Chapter eNewsletter
- Exposure to over 12,000 NYACP Members
- Logos included

You can find the Career Link page [here](#).
[Download the flyer](#) | [Complete the online form](#)

Opportunity of the Month

[Upstate New York Physician Recruiters](#)

The Upstate New York Physician Recruiters was formed with you—the physician—in mind. Our goal is to empower you to make direct contact with our in-house hospital physician recruiters who are united to get our message out. We can provide you with all the physician career information, support and resources you need to make the right career choice for you and your family.

Education

December Events to Remember

- **Ending The Epidemic**
End the HIV Epidemic by the End of 2020
This course is available online at any time and worth 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)