

August 3, 2018

## Practice Management



### **New Webinar: Starting Cost of Care Conversations with Patients: Implementation Strategies, Resources and Available Tools**

If you want to discuss the cost of care with your patients, but hesitate because you aren't sure where or how to start, then this is the webinar for you! NYACP will be sharing resources, tools and strategies derived from earlier demonstrations in physicians practices that will support integrating cost and quality conversations into your workflow. You will have access to materials that promote patient buy-in and facilitate training, learn about available tools and strategies for making the conversation more comfortable. We will even talk about how it overlaps with other initiatives that could improve your reimbursement and help you meet alternative payment model measures.

[Register now](#) for this first of four webinars designed to make the conversation with patients about cost and quality less of a conundrum!

**Presenter:** Amanda Allen,  
Project Coordinator at NYACP

**Date:** August 15, 2018

**Time:** 12pm – 1pm

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### **FDA Approves Cannabis-Derived Drug**



On June 25, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Epidiolex, the first drug derived from cannabis in the United States. Epidiolex, produced by GW Pharmaceuticals (in the United Kingdom), is derived from cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive part of cannabis, which is intended to treat patients with Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes, two rare forms of

epilepsy. Clinical trials have demonstrated that patients taking Epidiolex experience 40% less seizures.

Having been approved by the FDA, Epidiolex will now have to be approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) before becoming available in jurisdictions that have legalized medical cannabis use. While legislation has been and is being introduced to change cannabis's current classification as a Schedule I drug with no medical value, CBD, like cannabis, requires DEA reclassification, which is expected to occur within the next 90 days.

While other drugs have been approved to treat Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, Epidiolex is the first also specifically approved for Dravet syndrome. Analysts anticipate that Epidiolex will also be prescribed off-label (for purposes it has not been officially approved for) to treat many epileptic diseases besides Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes. Additionally, experts believe that Epidiolex's approval will increase patient safety because it provides a regulated medication with standard dosing and supply to patients who were previously being treated with CBD at home, some without dosage guidance.



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### **New Medicare Card Mailing Update: Wave 4 Begins, Includes New York**

CMS started mailing new Medicare cards to Medicare recipients who live in Wave 4 states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, **New York**, Rhode Island, and Vermont. CMS will continue to mail new cards to people who live in Wave 3 states, as well as nationwide to those who are new to Medicare.

If a patient with Medicare says they did not get a card, print and give them the "Still Waiting for Your New Card?" handout (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)) or instruct them to:

- Sign into [MyMedicare.gov](https://www.mymedicare.gov) to see if CMS mailed their card. If so, they can print an official card. They need to create an account if they do not already have one

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). There might be something that needs to be corrected, such as updating their mailing address.

To ensure that people with Medicare continue to get care, health care providers and suppliers can use either the former Social Security number-based Health Insurance Claim Number or the new alpha-numeric Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) for all Medicare transactions through December 31, 2019.

Check the [mailing strategy](#) as the mailings progress. Continue to direct people with Medicare to [Medicare.gov/NewCard](#) for information about the mailings and to sign up to get email about the status of card mailings in their state. CMS is committed to mailing new cards to all people with Medicare by April 2019.

Information on the transition to the new MBI:

- [New MBI Get It, Use It](#) MLN Matters® Article (Updated 7/11/18)
- [Transition to New Medicare Numbers and Cards](#) MLN Fact Sheet
- [New Medicare Card information](#) website



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### ACP Publishes Paper on Social Determinants of Health

ACP has published a paper in the Annals of Internal Medicine that examines ways to reduce health care disparities. [Addressing Social Determinants to Improve Patient Care and Promote Health Equity](#) provides a set of recommendations aimed at improving patient care and health outcomes, and overcoming the special challenges associated with adverse conditions in which people are born, grow, work, and live. The Chapter's Council reviewed this paper in a lively discussion led by Maria Carney, MD, FACP, NYACP Long Island Governor.

Social determinants of health are non-medical factors that can impact an individual's overall health and health outcomes. These include conditions that shape a patient's daily life, such as income, social status and education, their physical environment including access to safe water and clean air; the safety and conditions of their workplace and home; employment opportunities

and social support networks; and access to health services. The Council has made several suggestions to ACP to create meaningful resources for our physician members.

[You can read the entire report here.](#)

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## Advocacy

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### **New Report Aimed at Helping Small Primary Care Practices Share Services**

New Report Aimed at Helping Small Primary Care Practices Share Services

United Hospital Fund, and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with input from our NYACP leaders have issued a report intended to help small, independent primary care practices in New York City understand and develop shared-service arrangements.

Many NYACP leaders were involved in the advisory group on this report, including Drs. Louis Snitkoff, Linda Efferen, Donna Seminara, NYACP Executive Director Linda Lambert, and NYACP Manager of Practice Support Services Lisa Noel, as well as several other Chapter members.

Forty percent of primary care providers in the city are in independent practices with four or fewer health care providers, and they serve some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. The report, *PHIP Small Practice Project*, describes a business model in which small practices can share the cost of needed services - such as care managers, diabetes educators, and health information technology staff - that can enable them to provide better care for their patients. The potential costs and value of such arrangements were also calculated.

[The report can be downloaded for free here.](#)

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## Member Benefits

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### MLMIC's New Online CME Module Series Addresses Diagnostic Errors

The Chapter endorsed Medical Liability Insurance Carrier, MLMIC has recently announced a new series of online CME modules addressing diagnostic errors.

The Module ***High Exposure Liability: Errors in Diagnosis – Parts I & II*** feature a physician expert and a defense attorney discussing high exposure liability claims as a means to help you avoid errors. Risk management strategies to help physicians improve the quality of patient care and reduce their potential liability risk are also provided.

To learn more about MLMIC's CME modules, including how to register and view them, [please click here](#) or contact MLMIC at (518) 786-2700.

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The logo for DynaMed Plus is set against a dark teal square background. The text 'DynaMed' is in a white, sans-serif font, with 'Plus' below it in a slightly smaller, similar font.

### Sign up for a FREE DynaMed® Plus Account Today!

ACP and EBSCO Health are collaborating to provide ACP members with free access to the most current, evidence-based clinical decision support tool, DynaMed Plus®, as a benefit of ACP membership. ACP members have complimentary access to DynaMed Plus through December 31, 2018.

Start earning CME credits every time you use the point of care information resource DynaMed Plus to answer your clinical question. Simply sign in to your account, and the system tracks CME as it is accrued. You can redeem your credits at any time, and certificates are stored for easy access.

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