

September 18, 2018

## Practice Management



### **NYACP Ethics Committee Releases Paper, "What NYACP Members Need to Know About Withholding and Withdrawing Life Sustaining Therapies for Adult Patients Without Capacity"**

Medical decision-making on behalf of adult, incapacitated patients can be challenging for physicians. This paper, from the NYACP Ethics Committee, reviews medical decision-making when patients lack capacity, and the 2010 New York State Family Healthcare Decisions Act (FHCDA), a law that governs surrogate decision-making in hospitals as well as nursing homes in the state of New York. In addition, it provides information about a 2015 amendment to this law that allows physicians to provide hospice-eligible, incapacitated patients with no surrogate hospice care in a way that was not previously permissible under the FHCDA, and provides details on the steps that must be taken. The Committee's guidance is offered to assist Chapter Members as they face difficult patient challenges.

We would like to thank the following NYACP Ethics Committee members on producing this timely paper: Ellen C. Meltzer, MD, FACP, Jack P. Freer, MD, FACP, Cynthia S. Pan, MD, FACP, Daniel Pomerantz, MD, FACP, Timothy E. Quill, MD, MACP and Elaine Schattner, MD, FACP, with input from the rest of the Ethics Committee. We especially want to thank Joseph J. Fins, MD, MACP, Division of Medical Ethics Chief at Weill Cornell Medical College and Robert Swidler, Esq., for their guidance and input. [You can read more here](#)



### **ACP Comments on Medicare Payment Proposal, Offers Alternate Way Forward**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed rule for the 2019 Medicare physician fee schedule and Quality Payment Program on July 12, 2018, which would change documentation requirements and how physicians are paid for office visits. Since that time, ACP has been reviewing the proposed rule in detail and evaluating

potential short- and long-term effects on Internal Medicine specialists, subspecialists, and their patients.

ACP strongly supports CMS easing documentation of E/M services. As ACP has long advocated and asserted, the proposed changes can and should be implemented starting next year, without resulting in reductions in pay for the most complex visits.

The College strongly opposes the proposed change to pay the same for complex cognitive care as more basic care, which would adversely affect internal medicine specialists, subspecialists, and their patients and urges CMS to test alternatives to their proposed flat fee structure.

ACP observed in a 2015 position paper on clinical documentation, “In place of a thoughtfully written review of systems that listed pertinent positive or negative findings, clinically meaningless terms such as ‘ten point review of systems was negative’ were introduced into the record to satisfy E&M guidelines ... [an] imbalance of values has been created, with compliance, coding, and security trumping patient care, clinical well-being, and efficiency.”

ACP's comments offer an alternative way forward for CMS to immediately implement changes that will address the adverse impacts of documentation on patient care while preserving the principle that more complex cognitive care must be valued more than less complex care. If CMS eases documentation of E/M services without devaluing complex cognitive care, it would be a big step forward for ACP members and ACP's Patients Before Paperwork initiative.

In its official comment letter to CMS last week addressing the proposed rules, ACP detailed concerns and made recommendations for change. You can read the letter here. [Read more here.](#)

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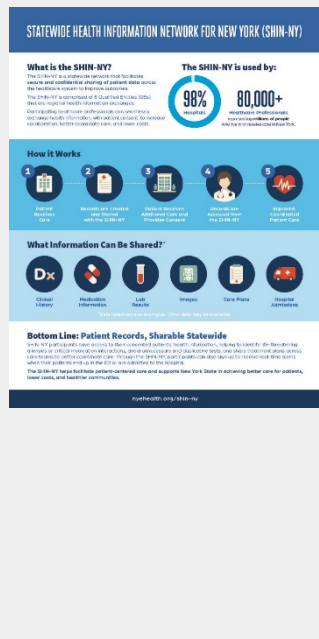
### **Make Your Voice Heard: Take this Survey on Administrative Burdens from ACP**



ACP is continuously working on your behalf to reduce administrative burdens and improve the Medicare payment system, as well as press legislators and regulators for changes that can successfully improve your daily work experience and patient care.

As part of that work, ACP is looking for members to complete this survey on [Administrative Tasks and Best Practices](#). This survey will better assist the College in advocating for reform.

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## Infographic from SHIN-NY

The New York eHealth Collaborative recently released a new infographic on the [Statewide Health Information Network for New York \(SHIN-NY\)](#), detailing how it works and why its important to you and your practice.

The SHIN-NY is a “network of networks” that links New York’s nine regional Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) throughout the state. Each RHIO (or Qualified Entity/QE) operates its own network that collects electronic health records from participating practices. Today, these regional networks combined already connect 84% of hospitals in New York State, thousands of medical offices, and represent millions of patients who live in or receive care in NY.

[You can view the infographic here.](#)



## NYACP Executive Director to Receive New York eHealth Collaborative Honoree Award

NYACP Executive Director, Linda Lambert, CAE will receive the prestigious New York eHealth Collaborative Honoree Award for her dedication and accomplishments for the advancement of healthcare technology in New York State at its annual Gala and Awards ceremony in New York City on November 27th.

The Gala and Awards, hosted by NYeC’s Board of Directors, serve to recognize and honor the achievements of those leading the mission to improve healthcare through technology. Linda has spearheaded our Chapter’s activities along with our leaders and Health Information Technology Committee in efforts to provide meaningful perspective into the benefits, barriers and challenges of adoption of EHRs across the healthcare system in New York State.

Congratulations, Linda for your years of keeping our patients and members best interests central as health information technology.

## Education

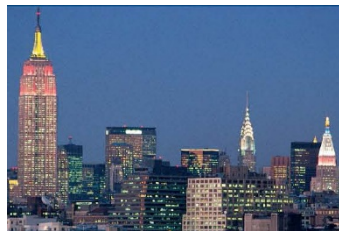


**Chapter Co-Sponsored Event:**  
**Current Topics in Primary Care and Neurology:  
Update for the Primary Care Practitioner**  
*Offering 10 Hours of AMA PRA Category I Credits!*

**Date:** September 21-23, 2018

**The Conference Center**  
2608 Main Street • Lake Placid, NY 12946

[View the Brochure](#) • [Register Here](#)



**Chapter Co-Sponsored Event:**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Hospital Medicine  
Symposium**  
**Mastering the Care of the Hospital Patient**

**Date:** October 19-20, 2018

**Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**  
Hatch Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1468 Madison Avenue at 100th Street  
New York, NY 10037

[View the Brochure](#) • [Register Here](#)



**Chapter Sponsored Event:**  
**Buprenorphine Waiver Eligibility Training**

**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2019  
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Desmond Hotel**  
660 Albany Shaker Road • Albany, NY 12211

[Register Online](#)



**Chapter Co-Sponsored Event**  
**Commissioner's Medical Grand Rounds:  
Integration of Primary Care and Behavioral Health**  
*Worth 2 AMA PRA Category I Credits™!*

**Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018**  
**8:00am-10:00am**  
Forchheimer First Floor Lecture Hall 105  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
1300 Morris Park Avenue (Belfer 115), Bronx, NY 10461

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## Member Benefits

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### ACP Partners with Bedside Rounds Podcast to Offer Continuing Education

ACP and Bedside Rounds, a podcast focusing on the history of medicine and how those issues affect our society and culture – both past and present – are partnering to offer CME credits and MOC points.

The first **ACP-Bedside Rounds [podcast](#)** covers the birth of population health. The episode, “Blood on the Tracks,” is about how growing controversies about bloodletting led a French physician named Pierre Louis to develop his “numerical method” to run the first population study in history. After listening to the podcast, ACP members can log on to ACP’s [Online Learning Center](#) to claim CME credit and MOC points. Bedside Rounds is available on [iTunes](#) and other podcast platforms.

[Find out more here.](#)

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### Auto Insurance Reduction Course - Save 10%!

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).

[Find out more and register here!](#)

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