

December 23, 2015

## Practice Management

### Electronic Prescribing Waiver Application Now Available Through the Health Commerce System

The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has announced the availability of the Electronic Prescribing Waiver (EPW) application on the Health Commerce System (HCS). This application allows a Practitioner, Medical Group Practice or Institution to submit a request for a waiver from the requirement to electronically prescribe, but requires detailed information and documentation for each request.

Instructions for using the online application based on the type of requester:

- [Practitioner](#)
- [Medical Group Practice](#)
- [Institution](#)

A paper version for each requester type is available upon request. More on this process and the E-Prescribing deadline will follow in upcoming YCIA editions.

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### Are You Having Trouble Logging Into the Health Commerce System for Use in I-STOP, E-Prescribing or Ordering Prescription Forms?

On November 18, 2015, the Health Commerce System (HCS), New York State DOH's primary resource for communications with licensed physicians, implemented several important updates to their interface. As a result, older internet browsers and operating systems may not work properly. You can test the compatibility of your browser at <https://www.ssllabs.com/ssltest/viewMyClient.html>

Due to application and data security requirements, HCS support for unsecured Internet browsers and operating systems will be discontinued. Specifically, this change will target older versions of Internet Explorer (versions 6, 7, 8 and 9) and the Windows XP operating system. Windows XP reached its end-of-life on April 8, 2014 and has not received security updates for over 19 months and is therefore considered unsecure. Microsoft has announced that "beginning January 12, 2016, only the most current version of Internet Explorer available for a supported operating system will receive technical support and security updates" (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/gp/microsoft-internet-explorer>). Older versions of Internet Explorer will rapidly become unsecure and the transmission or exchange of data through these browsers and Windows XP is at risk.

To upgrade your operating system please visit <http://www.microsoft.com> to determine if your computer is compatible with the latest Windows operating system and if you qualify for a free upgrade or will have to purchase a license. Please note that Windows 10 users will still need to install Microsoft Internet Explorer 11 or Google Chrome as most of HCS applications do not yet support the Microsoft Edge browser.

On the Windows platform, the HCS currently supports Microsoft Internet Explorer and Google Chrome, and offers partial support for Mozilla Firefox. Download the latest version of these browsers from the following links:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/internet-explorer/download-ie>
- Google Chrome: <https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/>
- Mozilla Firefox: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

If you require any further assistance, please contact the NYACP Office at 518-427-0366 and ask for Ben Max.

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## **ACP MEMBERSHIP: The Chapter Invites You to Help Us and Demonstrate Professionalism!**

2015 included the merger of NYACP's Membership and Communications Committees. In order for the New York Chapter ACP to carry out the Chapter's mission, contribute to membership recruitment and retention ideas/activities, and communicate the value of ACP and Chapter membership, we need your help. The Committee's mission and activities are as follows:

### **Mission:**

*The Membership/Communications Committee is charged with activities related to membership recruitment and retention as well as assessing and evaluating the effectiveness and value of Chapter communications and its impact on membership.*

### **Activities:**

- *The Committee routinely monitors membership statistics and makes recruitment and retention recommendations to the Council for action and implementation.*
- *The Committee continually seeks members who might qualify for Fellowship and encourages them to pursue advancement to Fellowship.*
- *The committee is charged with the responsibility to advise and evaluate the effectiveness and value of all aspects of communication from the Chapter to the membership.*

**Meetings of the Membership-Communications Committee are held by conference call.** If you are interested in joining this important committee, or for more information, please contact [Loretta Ponesse](#) at the Chapter office.

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## **More Information Available on Medical Marijuana from the Department of Health for Physicians**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recently approved the online availability of the [4-hour medical use of marijuana course through the AnswerPage](#). The cost to take the course is \$249, and includes the following topics: the pharmacology of marijuana; contraindications; side effects; adverse reactions; overdose prevention; drug interactions; dosing; routes of administration; risks and benefits; warnings and precautions; and abuse and dependence. 4.5 hours of CME Credit are available upon completion.

As a follow-up to this course, there is a new brochure with information available for physicians. "The New York State Medical Marijuana Program: Physician Information" brochure provides information on how health care providers qualify for the program, how to register with the NYSDOH, and how to certify your patients. [A copy has been posted to the NYSDOH website on the practitioner information page.](#)

The system that will be used by physicians to issue certifications to patients, as well as the patient registration system, will be available soon. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

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## **From The ACP Internist: With Some Planning and Collaboration, Small Practices Don't Have to Sell to a Hospital**

Yul Ejnes, MD, MACP, continues his monthly column at KevinMD.com in a post about how it is possible for independent practices to survive, if not thrive, in the new health care environment. An excerpt (*edited for clarity*):

"Recently, I came across notes that I took in January and February 1995 at the first two meetings of representatives of

the six small practices that eventually merged later that year to form my current group practice. The decision we made, that we had to do something to be able to take advantage of new payment models, as well as retain our independence and avoid having to sell our practices to the hospital, was an easy one. Figuring out what that “something” should be was not as simple... Our conclusion was that the best model for us was an asset merger, where each practice would exchange its equity for a share in new entity. The legacy practices would cease to exist after the merger. That seemed bold at the time, and still does, since we were entering uncharted waters, with no assurance that the merged practice would succeed.”

[To read the rest of the column, please click here.](#)

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## *Quality*

### **NYACP Leadership Conference: Another Chapter Success**

Last weekend, physician leaders from around New York State convened at West Point to participate in NYACP’s Leadership Conference, held every 18 months. The weekend brought together over 45 of the Chapter’s current and future leaders to discuss current health care policy initiatives, updates on education and quality trends, and the mission and focus of the Chapter and how we can better serve our members. The future leaders were invited to attend the NYACP Council Board meeting to become familiar with the Chapter’s governance structure and processes.

Topics presented included: An update on Alternative Payment Models including the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP), State Innovation Model (SIM), and Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments (DSRIP); a program on Creating a Strong Team Culture; and a panel discussion of the Chapter’s three focus areas: Education, Quality, and Advocacy. A lively resolutions discussion was held, with six resolutions being considered, three adopted, two referred and one not adopted. The weekend concluded with an open Town Hall Session.

**Are you interested in becoming a future leader of the Chapter?** You can start now by joining one of the many committees of the Chapter. To review the NYACP committees [click here.](#)

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### **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 practices seeking new partners or staff physicians to post open positions to prospective job seekers. The site also lists those looking for open positions.

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](#)

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#### **Opportunity of the Month**

##### [Iroquois Healthcare and NYACP Partner on Job Placement Opportunities:](#)

The Iroquois Healthcare Alliance (IHA) represents 54 hospitals and health systems in 32 Upstate counties. Their hospitals are located in 5 regions of New York State: the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Central New York, and the Southern Tier. The Chapter and Iroquois Healthcare have cosponsored a job placement website concentrated on the beautiful geography of the region and the diversity of the many communities make Upstate a wonderful place to live, work, and practice medicine!

## Education

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, June 4, 2016 • The 2016 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting**  
Westchester Hilton Hotel • 699 Westchester Avenue • Rye Brook, NY 10573  
**7.5 AMA PRA Category I CME Credits<sup>TM</sup>! • 3 SEP Sessions! • 30 ABIM MOC Points!**

#### Calling All Students and Residents!

#### NYACP Abstract Competition - *Online Abstract Submissions Are Now Open!*

If you have worked on a research project or have an interesting clinical case, submit your abstract for a chance to present it at the New York ACP Poster Session at the Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting. Separate poster competitions for residents and medical students will be held for entries in the following categories:

- Research
- Clinical Vignette
- Public policy/advocacy
- Quality, Patient safety/outcomes measurement

If your abstract is selected, you will be invited to present your poster at the NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, NY.

**Deadline:** The deadline to submit your abstract is Friday, March 11, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

To Submit Your Abstract online, please go to: [Online Abstract Submission Forms](#)  
For additional information, please contact Karen Tucker at [ktucker@nyacp.org](mailto:ktucker@nyacp.org)

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## 2016 Dates to Remember

### *District Meetings*

- **Tuesday, January 12, 2016: Manhattan District Meeting**  
*5:30pm Healthix Meet & Greet • 6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program*  
New York Athletic Club • 180 Central Park South • New York, NY 10019  
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Tuesday, January 12, 2016: Rochester District Meeting**  
*6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program*  
Pomodoro Restaurant • 3400 Monroe Avenue • Rochester, NY 14618  
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Thursday, January 14, 2016: Queens District Meeting**  
*5:30pm Healthix Meet & Greet • 6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational program*  
Il Toscano Ristorante • 4205 235th Street • Douglaston, NY 11363  
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Thursday, January 21, 2016: Staten Island District Meeting**  
*5:30pm Healthix Meet & Greet • 6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program*  
Fushimi Restaurant 2110 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10306  
[Event Flyer](#) • [Online Registration](#)
- **Wednesday, February 10, 2016: Nassau District Meeting**  
6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program

*Location details and Registration available soon!*

- **Thursday, February 11, 2016: Suffolk District Meeting**  
*6pm Registration • 6:30pm Dinner and Educational program*  
*Location details and Registration available soon!*

#### **Online Events**

- **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](#)

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To ensure deliverability of our emails, please add [info@nyacp.org](mailto:info@nyacp.org) to your contacts or accepted senders list in your email client.

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