

November 5, 2015

## Practice Management

### Advanced Care Decisions Materials Available from NYACP

Advanced decision making and end-of-life care options are unfortunate but necessary conversations for patients to have with their physicians and families. New York Chapter ACP has gathered important resources to assist in making these difficult discussions a reality.

A recently released report from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies entitled *“Dying In America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life”* details key findings and recommendations related to the realities of the clinician-patient relationship and how to effectively communicate and facilitate end of life wishes and directives. **An excerpt of the recommendations:**

“Most people nearing the end of life are not physically, mentally, or cognitively able to make their own decisions about care. The majority of these patients will receive acute hospital care from physicians who do not know them. Therefore, advanced care planning is essential to ensure that patients receive care reflecting their values, goals, and preferences.”

You can read the document in its entirety on NYACP’s website, [here](#).

In addition NYACP has a wealth of advanced care decisions materials (including MOLST - New York State’s preferred method of documentation) on the [Practice Management page](#).

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### CMS Supports Advanced Care Planning With Medicare Payment!

The decision by CMS to approve payment for end-of-life counseling affirms advanced care planning is a critical component of clinical practice. Additionally, the value of thoughtful planning discussions between patients and clinicians is clearly recognized.

Shared medical decision-making must be well informed and cannot be presumed. With the increasing diversity of our population, clinicians and caregivers, there is only one way to know “what matters most” to the patient. You must ask them. This decision supports the [National POLST Paradigm Program](#) and New York’s [MOLST](#) and [eMOLST](#).

CMS will begin reimbursing for these conversations starting January 1, 2016. The two advanced care planning codes for Medicare are:

- 99497 for an initial 30 minute voluntary advance care planning consultation (Final RVU 1.5)
- 99498 as an add-on code for additional 30 minute time blocks needed (Final RVU 1.4)

New York has been a leader in advanced care planning and supports the IOM recommendation that encourages “financial incentives for improved shared decision making and advanced care planning.” The actions taken by CMS align with this recommendation and should be followed by other insurers.

The CMS decision is applauded by [CompassionAndSupport.org](#), the MOLST Statewide Implementation Team and the National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) NYS Coalition.

## Congratulations to Nixon Peabody LLP on Being Voted Health Care “Law Firm of the Year”!



Thanks to the recommendations of clients and colleagues, NYACP's Legal Counsel, Nixon Peabody, has been named “Law Firm of the Year” in Health Care Law by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The *U.S. News-Best Lawyers* rankings are based on a process that includes analyzing evaluations submitted by clients and lawyers, peer review by leading attorneys in the field, and supplementary information provided by law firms.



Laurie Cohen, as the Chapter's Attorney, provides members with [support and direction](#) through articles and answering questions relevant to general practice. NYACP is proud to have a long-standing professional relationship with Laurie Cohen and Nixon Peabody. This relationship has been a true member benefit!

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## Quality

### An Evaluation of the Top 20 EHRs *(based on AMA Wire Article from 10/31/15)*

Electronic health record (EHR) vendors are required to test their products for usability, but how closely are these requirements being followed? A new comparative evaluation published Tuesday is intended to promote transparency around the design and usability testing of EHR products. Here is how 20 of the most common products measured up.

#### Falling short

The AMA and MedStar Health's National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare developed an [EHR User-Centered Design Evaluation Framework](#) to compare the design and testing processes for optimizing EHR usability. Using data provided by vendors to meet the certification requirements set by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), the framework employs a 15-point scale intended to go beyond the ONC's criteria and evaluate EHR vendors' compliance with best practices for a user-centered design process to encourage the ONC to raise the bar on federal usability certification.

Effective usability is critical to patient safety and physician satisfaction. In 2013, a [study](#) from the AMA and the RAND Corporation found that EHR usability represents a unique and vexing challenge to physician professional satisfaction. The framework analysis showed a lack of focus on user-centered design and usability testing among a large majority of the 20 EHR products.

Out of those 20 products evaluated, only three met all of the basic capabilities measured. [View the assessment](#) for full results on all 20 products.

This data is yet another step on the EHR solution ladder. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently [released meaningful use Stage 3 requirements](#). Within the new rule, a 60-day comment period was incorporated as well as an extension of the compliance deadline to 2018. Now is your chance to speak up. Each additional voice raises the volume of the cause. Visit [breakthertape.org](#) to share your story about how regulations are affecting your patients and practice, and submit your comments on the new meaningful use rules [directly to CMS](#).

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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 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.

In placing a job listing, \$100 per month includes:

- A listing up to 200 words
- Featured 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](#)

## Education

### NYACP District Meetings: Connecting Members Locally with Issues that Matter

They may be “multiple small feedings of the mind,” or just single topic educational presentations on pertinent issues for physicians, but district meetings held by the Chapter continue to be a tremendous success.

NYACP consists of 5 Regions and 16 Districts, and the goal of the Chapter is for each of the districts to meet at least twice a year for the purpose of educational programming, community related activities and keeping physicians abreast of important issues. These meetings cover a wide variety of topics ranging from how to

avoid physician burnout and updates on sepsis treatment to chronic pain management and administration of pneumococcal vaccine. Attendees are encouraged to be active participants in the presentations, and at events like last week’s Hudson Valley Capital District meeting on physician burnout, both session moderators and meeting participants shared personal stories and offered examples of work/life balance and suggestions for reducing stress.



These meetings also provide an excellent networking opportunity, as they are traditionally held in a relaxed restaurant or hospital venue with both general internists and subspecialists in attendance. In addition, CME Category I credits are offered when possible.

Please check our [Education](#) or our [Facebook events](#) page frequently for updates on upcoming local meetings!

## November Dates to Remember

### Webinars

- E-Prescribing Preparedness

Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EST: [Register Here](#)

Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 8:00 am - 9:00 am EST: [Register Here](#)

### District Meetings

- **NYACP Hudson Valley South District Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2015 • 6:00pm Registration / 6:30pm Dinner and Educational Program**  
 (1) Treatment for Hepatitis C: New Tests, New Drugs & New Recommendations  
 (2) Addiction Medicine Basics with a Focus on Opioid Dependence  
*1-Hour CME Category I Credits™*  
 Lusardi’s Restaurant • 1885 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont NY 10538  
*1-Hour CME Category I Credits™*  
[Event Flyer](#)



## NYS Health Commissioner's Medical Grand Rounds

- **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](#)

- **Sepsis Syndrome 2015**

**Thursday, November 5, 2015 • 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Roswell Park Cancer Institute • 666 Elm Street, Buffalo, NY

*Registration is free. Sandwiches and light refreshments will be served.*

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

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