

January 26, 2018

Advocacy

New York Chapter Advocacy in Action

Since the first of the year, the Chapter has handled a number of regulatory, legislative and administrative matters important to our members and their practices. Following is a bulleted list of current issues. In future newsletters we will go into more detail on some of the legislative and regulatory proposals.



- Reviewed State of the State and Budget released by Governor Cuomo
- Highlighted areas of interest and/or concern to our members including:
 - additional accountability for opioid prescriptions
 - taxation of vaping products
 - surcharge on insurer profits to increase revenues for indigent care pools
 - provisions for retail clinics within corporate entities such as pharmacies
 - adequate funding for Doctors Across New York and other workforce programs
 - provisions for telehealth/telemedicine enhancement and expansion
 - continuation of excess (2nd layer) medical liability insurance coverage
 - proposal to create protocols and collaborative agreements for pharmacists to perform comprehensive medication management of patients
 - establish community paramedicine – allowing additional services by EMS providers in residential settings under collaboration with a hospital, physician, EMS provider or home care in residential settings
- Drove out messaging on the cyber incident involving Allscripts with practical steps for members to take to handle prescriptions while the e-prescribing system was not functioning
- Continued to monitor impact of the e-prescribing failure with recommendations to the Department of Health to alleviate burden on practice
- Messaged Governor's office again expressing our concern on the pending legislation to extend the statute of limitations in medical liability cases related to tumor care (to be signed or vetoed by Feb 1)
- Met with Senate staff to discuss additional legislation to create appropriation for medical liability discounts for risk management education provided by NYACP
- Met with DOH staff to articulate need for edits in pending legislation that creates new mandatory data fields in the physician profiles
- Represented our subspecialists who maintain office based surgery facilities to assure equity of new data reporting procedures and communications
- Prepared to host four Advocacy interns (medical students and residents) serving a four week rotation to expand knowledge of public policy and how to be effective in impacting the legislative process

Any member who would like additional information on any of the above proposals should contact llambert@nyacp.org.

Practice Management

ATTENTION! Physicians Using AllScripts: Emergency E- Prescribing Options

The Department of Health (DOH) is aware that a malware attack regarding AllScripts occurred on Thursday, January 18th.

The incident may have limited the ability for some hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, individual prescribers and pharmacies who use AllScripts to transmit and receive prescriptions electronically. It is permissible for those impacted to use official paper prescriptions, or to issue verbal orders for prescriptions, in accordance with New York State regulations. If an exception to the electronic prescribing mandate is employed as a result of this technological failure, a prescriber should document the alternative method of prescribing and the reason for its use in the patient's medical record.

Please be reminded that while there are no explicit limits on days' supply in the event of the use of oral or paper prescriptions due to a technological failure, the usual limits on certain oral prescriptions remain in effect (for examples, the five-day supply limits on schedule II drugs and benzodiazepines, and the limits of a thirty-day supply or 100 dosage units, whichever is less, for Schedule III-V drugs, excluding benzodiazepines, with follow-up prescriptions).

DOH continues to recommend that all facilities and prescribers continually maintain an adequate supply of their official paper prescription forms to use in the event that they are unable to electronically prescribe for any period of time. Additional paper forms may be ordered online through the Health Commerce System.

If you have questions about whether a transmitted electronic prescription was received, please contact the receiving pharmacy directly. Should you have urgent questions about this incident, please contact DOH at [866-811-7957](tel:866-811-7957) or off-hours at [866-881-2809](tel:866-881-2809).

The Chapter continues to monitor this vendor issue. If you continue to experience problems related to this AllScripts incident, please contact Linda Lambert, CAE, Executive Director of NYACP, at llambert@nyacp.org.

Rise in Influenza Cases Declared Public Health Emergency by Governor Cuomo

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has released an [executive order](#) to combat the flu epidemic in New York. The executive order temporarily allows pharmacists to administer flu vaccines to children ages 2 to 18 - increasing access and convenience for New Yorkers seeking the flu vaccination as the number of reported cases across the state continues to rise. Over the past week, 7,779 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were reported to the state and 1,759 New Yorkers have been hospitalized with confirmed influenza, the highest weekly numbers in both categories since reporting began in 2004 and surpassing last week's previous high of 1,606 hospitalizations.



"With flu cases reaching epidemic proportions in New York, we must do everything in our power to fight this virus and keep New Yorkers safe," Governor Cuomo said. "Once

again, I urge all New Yorkers to help us combat this quick-spreading strain of flu and make sure they and their loved ones are vaccinated."

The Executive Order, effective 1/25/18, suspends the section of state education law that limits the authority of pharmacists to administer immunizing agents to anyone under age 18 to allow vaccines to be administered to anyone age 2 and up. Parents and guardians are encouraged to call pharmacies ahead of their visit, to ensure they are ready to receive patients in this age group. Parents and guardians with children between the ages of 6 months and 24 months are still encouraged to see their primary care provider for the vaccination.

To receive a flu shot, contact your local health care provider or pharmacy, or find information about vaccination clinics by contacting your [local health department](#). Flu shots may also be found through the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#).

In addition to the [steps taken](#) by the Department of Health last week, the Governor ordered the following actions to protect New Yorkers from influenza and ensure health care system capacity:

- Issuance of Department of Financial Services guidance to health insurers to ensure that prior authorization is not a barrier to the prescribing of antiviral medications within the first 48 hours of illness.
- Direct engagement with all New York State county health commissioners to review the four key strategies of influenza control- vaccination, rapid antiviral treatment, isolation of sick individuals, and good hand hygiene- and promote local vaccination awareness efforts.
- Ongoing communication with all New York State hospitals and nursing homes to review capacity management strategies and the actions available to expand capacity to handle patient surge.
- Continued monitoring of hospital capacity through survey and direct outreach to hospital leadership.

What Physicians Can Do to Ensure the Safety and Health of Their Patients

Influenza Antiviral Medications

One of three influenza antiviral medications - oseltamivir (Tamiflu), zanamivir (Relenza), or peramivir (Rapivab) - should be used for treating influenza infections, especially in persons at high risk for serious complications of influenza infection. Peramivir is only available as an IV formulation and is approved for use in persons two years of age and older. Only oseltamivir and zanamivir are approved for prophylaxis. Zanamivir should not be used in persons with underlying airways disease, such as asthma or COPD. Antiviral treatment should be started as early as possible for any patients with confirmed or suspected influenza who are hospitalized, seriously ill, or ill with a high risk of serious influenza-related complications. The latter group includes:

- Persons over 65 or under 2 years of age
- Pregnant women, or those who have given birth within the previous 2 weeks
- Persons with diabetes, chronic lung (e.g., asthma), heart, kidney, liver, or blood disorders, neurological disorders compromising respiration, history of stroke, morbid obesity (i.e., body-mass index > 40), or who are immunocompromised (e.g. HIV, AIDS and/or cancer)
- Persons under 19 years of age who are on long-term aspirin therapy

Treatment should begin as soon as influenza is suspected, regardless of vaccination status or rapid test results, and should not be delayed for confirmatory testing.

Further recommendations on the use of antiviral drugs are available with these documents:

- [Seasonal Flu Treatment Guidelines](#)
- [CDC Information for Antiviral Drugs](#)

Influenza Vaccine Supply Recommendations

If you need more vaccine, influenza vaccine is still available for purchase. For a list of available products and where to purchase to them, [please click here](#). Providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program who need to order additional vaccine or have questions about their influenza vaccine order, can visit [this site](#) and log on to the Online Registry to place or track a request. You may also send an e-mail to nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov.

Detailed information on influenza prevention and control, including influenza and pneumococcal vaccine recommendations, is available in the Health Department's [City Health Information: Influenza Prevention and Control, 2017-2018 publication](#). For further information on ordering vaccine, vaccine supply, standing orders, sample refusal forms, patient education materials, and additional resources to promote influenza vaccination, [please click here](#).

For information regarding control of influenza outbreaks in acute and long-term care facilities and other congregate settings, please contact the Health Department's influenza surveillance coordinators, Beth Nivin (347-396-2616) or Alice Yeung (347-396-2608).

NY Department of Health Influenza Surveillance

During the week ending January 20, 2018:

- There were 7,779 laboratory-confirmed influenza reports, an 28% increase over last week.
- Of the 3,581 specimens submitted to NYS WHO/NREVSS laboratories, 813 (22.70%) were positive for influenza.
- Of the 132 specimens submitted to the Wadsworth Center, 80 were positive for influenza. 12 were for influenza A (H1), and 62 were influenza A (H3), 5 were influenza B (Yamagata), and 1 was influenza B (Victoria).
- Reports of percent of patient visits or influenza-like illness (ILI³) from ILINet providers was 8.58%, which is above the regional baseline of 3.10%.
- The number of patients hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed influenza was 1,759, an 5% increase over last week.
- There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported this week, and one pediatric death so far this season.



[Read the entire report here.](#)

Education

REGISTER TODAY for Regional MOC Sessions!

Earn up to 10 ABIM MOC points and 10 CME Credits™ per topic!



NYACP is hosting MOC sessions at three locations throughout New York in early 2018.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER! Bronx/Manhattan District - Saturday, February 3, 2018

St. Barnabas Hospital Auditorium, 4422 Third Ave, Bronx, NY 10457

2017 Update in Hospital Medicine: ***Jitendra Barmecha, MD, FACP*** (8:00am-10:00am)

2017 Update in Hospice and Palliative Medicine: ***Daniel Pomerantz, MD, FACP*** (10:30am-12:30pm)

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

Staten Island District - Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Regina McGinn Medical Center, 475 Seaview Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305

2017 Update in Geriatric Medicine: ***Donna Seminara, MD, FACP and Anita Szerszen, MD, FACP*** (6:00pm-8:00pm)

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

Buffalo District - Saturday, March 31, 2018

Buffalo Garden Hilton, 4201 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14225

2017 Update in Internal Medicine: ***Ed Stehlik, MD, FACP*** (8:00am-10:00am)

2017 Update in Geriatric Medicine: ***Leslie Algase, MD, FACP*** (10:30am-12:30pm)

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

[FULL EVENT FLYER / Fax Registration](#)

Mark Your Calendar!

NYACP Scientific Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 2018

Make plans now to join us at the next Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, New York.



Take advantage of the Chapter's rich resources and increase your knowledge by networking at our premier educational event for all Internists (general and subspecialty), as well as residents and medical students. This one-day conference offers something for everyone – you can earn up to 7.5 CME Credits™, along with viewing the outstanding posters by our resident and medical student members. You can also earn up to 30 MOC points if you register for the SEP breakout sessions.

The complete program agenda and registration information can be found here: [NYACP Scientific Meeting](#)

Call for Papers: 2018 Poster Competition - Deadline to Submit Approaching!

The next Chapter poster competition takes place at the Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, New York. If you

have worked on a research project or have an interesting clinical case, submit your abstract!

Separate poster competitions for residents and medical students will be held for entries in the following categories:

- **Research**
- **Clinical Vignette**

Residents/Fellows and Medical Students will be combined in the following category:

- **Quality, Advocacy and Public Policy**

If your abstract is chosen during the preliminary judging phase, you will be invited to present your poster at the NYACP Scientific Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Hilton Westchester Hotel. Deadline to submit abstracts is Friday, March 2, 2018.

[To find out more please click here.](#)
