

July 14, 2015

## Practice Management

### Opportunities to Support a New Practice Partner or for Physicians Establishing their Practice: The Cycle 4 DANY Awards Are Now Available for Application!

\$100,000 in Practice Support (105 grants) or \$150,000 in Loan Repayment (71 grants) are NOW available for those who agree to practice in New York State in areas where there are physician shortages. The service commitment for Practice Support is two years, the commitment for Loan Repayment is five years. The definition of a “shortage” area is broader than federally qualified HPSAs.

The Chapter has developed an easy to use FAQ on applying for a Doctors Across New York (DANY) grant. [Click here to view the NYACP DANY page.](#)

The application should be submitted immediately - as the original application deadline (showing on the DOH website) will change from July 31 to August 31st, and awards are given on a “first come first served” basis.

For full information on Doctors Across New York (DANY) go to: [http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate\\_medical\\_education/doctors\\_across\\_ny/](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/)

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### CMS’ Open Payments (Sunshine Act) - 2014 Financial Data About Physicians Now Available

*Have you looked at the data reported on you?*

On June 30, 2015, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published 2014 [Open Payments data](#) about transfers of value by drug and medical device makers to health care providers. The data includes information about 11.4 million financial transactions attributed to over 600,000 physicians and more than 1,100 teaching hospitals, totaling \$6.49 billion.

The Open Payments program was created by the Affordable Care Act and requires drug and device manufacturers to report transfers of value (i.e. payments, honoraria or research grants) to health care providers, as well as other industry-related investments providers may have.

The program relies on voluntary participation by physicians and teaching hospitals to review the information submitted by these companies. As a physician, are you reviewing the financial data which may have been provided about you before it goes public? If not, [click here](#) for the rules.

To review your personal data, go to this link: <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/search>

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## Two New Posts from NYACP Attorneys at Nixon Peabody:

### Be Aware - New Physician Compensation Arrangements May Violate Federal Anti-Kickback Rules

As new physician compensation arrangements emerge with alternative payment models being tried and tested throughout the country, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (the "OIG") recently issued a [fraud alert](#) highlighting certain physician compensation arrangements that run a high risk of violating the federal anti-kickback statute (the "AKS"). The OIG emphasizes that in order to prevent AKS violations, physician compensation arrangements—including medical directorships—must reflect fair market value for the bona fide services that physicians actually provide under the arrangements.



To read the full post, [click here](#).

### CMS Releases Final Rule Addressing Changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Programs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [Final Rule](#) on June 4 addressing changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program. The new rule makes several modifications to requirements for accountable care organizations (ACOs), ACO participants, and ACO providers/suppliers, including eligibility, ACO participant agreements, identification and reporting requirements, governance, and leadership and management.

The NYACP attorneys at Nixon Peabody have written a blog post to help explain and navigate all of the Final Rule changes, which can be [read here](#).



Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company

### MLMIC Announces "No Rate Increase for Physician Policyholders"

MLMIC has released great news for physician policyholders and our chapter members who take advantage of this valuable membership benefit. The New York State Superintendent of Insurance has accepted MLMIC's recommendation for rates to remain unchanged for the July 1, 2015 - July 1, 2016 policy year.

In addition, the [5% dividend announced in April](#) (for policyholders who were insured on May 1, 2014, and maintained continuous coverage through July 1) will be credited to invoices for the upcoming renewal period. This is MLMIC's third consecutive year of dividend returns!

### CMS and AMA Announce Efforts to Help Providers Get Ready For ICD-10

With less than three months remaining until the nation switches from ICD-9 to ICD-10 coding for medical diagnoses and inpatient hospital procedures, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) have announced additional help for physicians to get ready ahead of the October 1 deadline. In response to requests from the provider community, CMS is releasing additional



guidance that will allow for flexibility in the claims auditing and quality reporting process as the medical community gains experience using the new ICD- 10 code set.

CMS' free help includes the "Road to 10" aimed specifically at smaller physician practices with primers for clinical documentation, clinical scenarios, and other specialty-specific resources to help with implementation. CMS has also released provider training videos that offer helpful ICD-10 implementation tips.

CMS also detailed its operating plans for the ICD-10 implementation. Upcoming milestones include:

- Setting up an ICD-10 communications and coordination center, learning from best practices of other large technology implementations that will be in place to identify and resolve issues arising from the ICD-10 transition.
- Sending a letter in July to all Medicare fee-for-service providers encouraging ICD-10 readiness and notifying them of these flexibilities.
- Completing the final window of Medicare end-to-end testing for providers this July.
- Offering ongoing Medicare acknowledgement testing for providers through September 30th.
- Providing additional in-person training through the "Road to 10" for small physician practices.
- Hosting an MLN Connects National Provider Call on August 27th

In addition, CMS has created an FAQ on ICD-10, which can be [read here](#).

To read the full release, [click on this link](#).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a **grace period** for ICD-10 implementation during which Medicare Part B claims for physician services and other practitioner services will not be denied for "lack of specificity" for one year after the October 1 implementation. This means that providers will not incur denials as long as the ICD-10 code, which will be required on each claim, is valid and from the correct family of codes. Providers will also be able to apply for payment advances in the event that Medicare Part B contractors are unable to process claims due to ICD-10 implementation issues.

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## New ICD-10 Webinars - Register Today!

The NYACP, in conjunction with National Government Services (NGS), is hosting two webinars on the upcoming implementation of ICD-10.

This webinar will provide Part B providers with an overview of ICD-10-CM and will assist you with planning for the mandated ICD-10-CM transition by October 1, 2015. The session will include testing opportunities and transition stages that will help you prepare your office for the upcoming implementation.

**Note:** As per the CMS IOM Publication 100-09, Chapter 6, Section 30.1.1, National Government Services cannot make determinations about the proper use of codes for the provider. Answers to questions related to ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM coding can be found on ACP's ICD-10 Coding Page, or by [clicking here](#).

### Webinar Dates

- August 6, 2015 (6:00 - 7:00 pm) - [Register Here](#)
  - August 19, 2015 (12:00 - 1:00 pm) - [Register Here](#)
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# Advocacy

## NYACP Seeks Your Input on ACP Fall 2015 Board of Governors Resolutions!

Every member has the opportunity to provide input regarding the development of policies and positions of the College through the resolutions process.

### *You May Submit An Idea For A New Resolution*

The Chapter has developed a number of resources to assist members in the development of a resolution. A resolution is a proposal that asks the ACP or the NYACP to take a position and/or an action. It consists of at least one directive ("Resolved clause") accompanied by supporting statements ("Whereas clauses").

When you visit the [Resolutions section](#) of our website you will learn how to:

- Share ideas with elected NYACP Governors or council members;
- Submit information for discussion at the NYACP Health and Public Policy Committee; and/or
- Submit resolutions for review and action by the Chapter.

You may [submit a new resolution](#) at any time. If you need assistance, please call Meg McCarthy at (518) 427-0366

### *Current Pending Resolutions: Request for Comment*

The New York Chapter leadership requests your input on the proposed resolutions to be acted on at the ACP Fall Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in October 2015.

Members interested in submitting comments on any or all of the resolutions must do so using our online comments page no later than Monday, July 20, 2015. Please review the copy of the [ACP Fall 2015 BOG Resolutions](#) and to submit a comment please visit: <http://www.nyacp.org/i4a/survey/survey.cfm?id=133>

You may select: Support; Do Not Support; or Support with Amendment. If you select support with an amendment, you will be asked to enter specific language to be added or deleted. *Please note that the New York Chapter Resolutions have been extracted since they have previously been acted upon by NY Chapter members.*

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## Alternative Payment Models - A New Update from ACP

With legislation making SGR a distant memory but creating a new Merit Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for the future, and the health industry striving to achieve value as well as quality improvement, new Alternative Payment Models (APMs) are on the rise. A recent article featured in the June edition of the ACP Advocate delves into what physicians can expect from APMs. The MIPS will combine three existing incentive programs - the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Electronic Health Record Meaningful Use (MU), and the Value-Based Modifier (VBM) programs.

Some of these models may be familiar to you, including the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and those listed above. But there are many other models that may be coming your way from the "feds" through CMS - such as CMMI, CPCI, and others through the State such as Pay for Performance, DSRIP, Advance Primary Care (APC), and Medicaid Primary Care Incentive Payments (MAPCP). Alternative payment systems will create bonus incentive payments and shared risk based options.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

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## Education

### Licensure Guidelines for U.S. and International Medical Graduates in New York State - An Easy Summary and Checklist of What is Required

Applying for a medical license in New York State after graduating from medical school can be challenging, whether you are a U.S. Medical Graduate or an International Medical Graduate. Thankfully, the NYACP, with the help of our advocacy interns Achala Talati, MD, and Tabitha Whitthauer (Medical Student), has prepared easy-to-read documents and checklists to assist you as you begin the process of New York State licensure. You can reference these documents by going to the [Students Page](#) on the NYACP website, or by using these links:

- [Applying for licensure: U.S. Medical Graduates](#)
- [Applying for licensure: International Medical Graduates](#)

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### NYACP Resident and Medical Student Forum - Are you ready to submit your abstract?

***Only 3 weeks left!*** Deadline to submit your abstract is Friday, July 31, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

The Chapter is accepting abstract submissions for the poster session that will be held during the Resident and Medical Student Forum on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Last fall, we had over 375 abstracts submitted with approximately 100 accepted for the onsite competition. Don't miss this opportunity to stand out from the crowd and show your Program or Clerkship Director that you are willing to take that extra step to take your career to the next level! The online peer review and final judging are done by Masters and Fellows of the College. All submitted abstracts and posters can be included on your CV under scholarly activity!



Winners of the competition receive an expense paid trip to ACP's IM2016 in Washington DC to represent NY in the National Poster Competition! New York sets a very high standard for acceptance of posters, and if you are a winner, you will be profiled on the Chapter's and ACP's website!

You can easily [Submit Your Abstract Here!](#)

To make sure your abstract is ready, use the [complete Abstract Checklist!](#)

For all abstract information and forms and guidelines, go to the chapter website at: [NYACP Abstracts](#)

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