

EDUCATION

Annual Scientific Meeting and Internal Medicine Review Course a Success

We are pleased to report that over 330 internists, residents, medical students and allied health professionals attended the Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting in conjunction with this year's first IM Board Review Course cosponsored by the NY Methodist Hospital.

The meeting was held at the Hilton Westchester from Friday February 22, - Sunday, February 24, 2013.

The Chapter would like to thank the Planning Committee Members: Michael Ammazalorso, MD, MACP, Chair; Louis Aledort, MD, MACP, Co-Chair; and Lawrence Faltz, MD, MACP, as well as Parag Mehta, MD, FACP, for developing a comprehensive and innovative clinical and educational program.

The Chapter would also like to thank all of the pre and final-Judges for the poster competition.

70 Residents and medical students formally presented in the competition finals. Congratulations to all of the presenters!

To see the list of winners visit current news under Resident and Medical Students: <http://www.nyacp.org>

Save the Date!

The Next Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting will take place on:

**Friday, March 21, 2014
Adams Mark Hotel
Buffalo, New York**

ADVOCACY

Call to Action: Budget Issues will Impact Your Practice

As part of our active monitoring and advocacy efforts, your Chapter has identified several issues in Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2013-2014 proposed Budget, that will impact internal medicine practices across New York State. We have created a briefing on the issues - see appended document.

The Chapter, working with MSSNY, specialty societies and stakeholder partners, has successfully advocated in opposition of these proposals in the past helping to prevent their passage.

However, because these issues are included in the proposed budget and do not stand alone as individual legislative measures, the likelihood of passage is high.

As a physician constituent, you must convey your feelings about these 4 issues that will directly impact your practice.

As a member of the Chapter, you have access to our online Grassroots Action Center which provides an easy way to contact your local representatives in just under one minute of time.

We have created a briefing on the issues as well as a sample letter for you to personalize.

Be sure to edit the suggested text to reflect your own practice situation:

<http://www.votervoicenet.org/groups/nyacp/advocacy/?issueid=30771>

QUALITY

Quality Improvement Webinars Help You Learn How To Mitigate Error and Provide Safe, Efficient Care

Anatomy of Medical Errors Webinar
Monday, March 4, 2013
10:00am - 11:00am

Join us as we kick off patient safety week with this webinar presented by Ethan Fried, MD, MACP.

The presentation will cover the complex anatomy of medical errors, classifications of errors and common tools used to mitigate each of them.

The intended audience includes: Physicians, Interns, Residents, Fellows and Healthcare Professionals

You can register today by visiting:
<http://www.nyacp.org/education>

Quality Improvement in Healthcare 101 - Building a Culture of Safety for Physicians & Healthcare

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Learn how to recognize and utilize modern quality improvement principles and tools to provide safer and more efficient health care to our patients. This program is back by popular demand and offers 1.0 Hour of CME Category I Credits.

The intended audience includes: Physicians, Interns, Residents, Fellows, Program Directors, Hospitalists, Medical Students and Healthcare Professionals.

You can register today by visiting:
<http://www.nyacp.org/education>

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BRIEFING : Issues of Concern At-A-Glance

Removal of the Written Practice Agreement or Written Protocols for Nurse Practitioners

The budget allows for the elimination of the written practice agreement and/or written practice protocols for Nurse Practitioners who provide only primary-care services. The Nurse Practitioner must demonstrate that it is not reasonable to require the written practice agreement or written practice protocols as determined by the State Commissioner of Health.

Establishment of Retail Clinics ("Limited Service Clinics")

The budget would allow a new, limited definition of Diagnostic and Treatment Centers (D&TCs), owned by for-profit companies, to provide health care services (such as in a pharmacy, a store open to the general public, or a shopping mall). The Health Commissioner will promulgate regulations on operational and physical-plant standards. The Health Commissioner may consult with a work group of representatives from professional societies and others on how to strengthen and promote primary care, how to integrate care of limited-service clinics with other health care providers, and how to appropriately transmit patient information.

Changes to the Excess Medical Liability Program (2nd Layer of Coverage)

Included in the budget is a proposal that would limit eligibility for Excess coverage to a physician who:

- Has professional privileges in the general hospital that is certifying the physician's or dentist's eligibility;
- Provides emergency medical services at the general hospital that is certifying his or her eligibility; (new this year)
- Accepts Medicaid; and (new this year)
- Has in force coverage under an individual policy or group policy written in accordance with the provisions of the insurance law from an insurer licensed in this state to write personal injury liability insurance, of primary malpractice insurance coverage in amounts of no less than \$1.3M/\$3.9M or, (2) is endorsed as an additional insured under a voluntary attending physician ("channeling") program previously permitted by the superintendent of insurance and covering the same time period as the equivalent excess coverage.

This proposal reduces the overall funding allocation from \$127.4M to \$114.6M and permits coverage of the highest risk specialties before other physicians (new this year).

Workforce Development

All of the current workforce development initiatives no longer appear as individual line items, but will be grouped into one budget allocation with a 10% reduction, "to provide for flexibility in appropriations" according to Department officials. Funds to continue the Doctors Across New York Program are within this new "pool" of funding and could be in jeopardy.

What We Plan to Do: NYACP will

- Work with other physician organizations, through joint letters and meetings, to oppose legislation that puts the quality of patient care and efforts to improve care coordination at risk. The removal of the written practice agreement with Nurse Practitioners may undermine efforts toward interprofessional team based care and increase costs through necessary referrals and consultations. The establishment and proliferation of Retail Health Clinics who will treat cases on an episodic basis may undermine the nature of longitudinal and continuous physician-patient relationships. The proposal to change the medical liability excess coverage may result in elimination of this coverage for Internal Medicine physicians.
- Meet with Executive and key Legislative leaders including NYS Health Commissioner Shah to share our concerns and better understand the vision for these actions.
- Continue to report on current budget proposals, their impact on practice and the environment in which they may be acted upon quickly.
- Provide members with guidance on how to contact local legislators.

The Chapter believes it is our responsibility to highlight these proposals and their potential impact on your practice; identify the Chapter's action plan and provide you with opportunities to advocate on behalf of your patients and your practice.

Please visit <http://www.nyacp.org/gac> for details.

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