



Montgomery County Medical Society

a fax & email newsbrief for Montgomery County
Medical Society members only



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Visit your MCMS web site, www.montmedsoc.com

EHR Consulting Services On the Way – Regional Extension Centers can help physicians and small primary care practices to draw down federal assistance for electronic health record (EHR) implementation and related practice support. Eligible primary care providers are those who practice in small practices or community health centers: 10 or fewer providers in family, internal, pediatric or obstetrics and gynecology medicine. Those who have already implemented EHRs, or who plan to do so, should use this link now www.pareacheast.org to pre-register for assistance. Pre-registration is not a legal commitment, but federal funding is limited and will be on a first-come basis. Pennsylvania Medical Society's encourages members to use its wholly-owned subsidiary, PMSCO Healthcare Consulting, as your business partner for this project. Beginning next year, physicians that adopt and make effective use of EHRs to improve patient care can earn up to \$44,000 extra from Medicare or up to \$65,000 from Medicaid. These incentives, however, end in 2015. Those who don't implement EHRs will be subject to incremental Medicare/Medicaid payment reductions. If you have any questions, please call (888) 294-4336, and ask to speak with a practice management consultant or via email at experts@consultpmsco.com.

SGR Fix Delayed Again– For the fourth time in six months, physicians are facing a 21 percent cut in their Medicare reimbursements. This afternoon, the Senate passed an amended version of H.R. 3962, now called the “Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010,” by unanimous consent. This legislation provides a 2.2 percent Medicare physician payment update for six months, from June 1 through November 30, 2010, in lieu of the scheduled 21 percent cut. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives is not scheduled to hold any floor votes until next Tuesday evening. As a result, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is instructing its carriers today to lift the hold on processing claims for services provided on or after June 1, and to begin processing them under the law's negative update requirement. In other words, claims will start to be paid today at the 21 percent lower rate, on a first in/ first out flow basis. If H.R. 3962 is passed by the House and signed by the President, CMS will retroactively adjust any June claims that have been paid.

Use Your Voice to Fix SGR -- All physicians are urged to contact their representatives in Congress and urge them to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that determines Medicare physician payments. This cut is an outgrowth of a law passed by Congress more than a decade ago to try to hold down Medicare costs under a formula

called the sustainable growth rate. Under this formula, pay cuts kick in when Medicare payments to physicians outpace certain economic targets. Call (800) 833-6354 and tell your representatives that the cuts could force physicians to stop participating in Medicare and TRICARE, threatening patient access to care. You can find contact information for your congressional leaders by visiting, www.pamedsoc.org/capwiz .

New Board Member Has Eye on Medicine -- The Montgomery County Medical Society is pleased to have Barbara P. O’Flynn of Mid Atlantic Retina to join its Board of Directors. She comes to the board with more than 30 years of clinical, management and administrative experience in the healthcare field. Currently, Ms. O’Flynn serves as the chief executive officer of Mid Atlantic Retina and oversees effective functioning of practice operations including, but not limited to, clinical and administrative operations, financial operations, and human resources. In the past year, Mid Atlantic Retina has grown to nineteen physicians, nearly two hundred employees, with sixteen offices across three states. Welcome Barbara!

PECOS Deadline is July 6 – Physicians and nonphysician providers should verify your enrollment in Medicare’s Provider Enrollment Chain Ownership System (PECOS) before July 6. All physicians and nonphysician providers who order any service (any durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies including diagnostic tests) must be enrolled in PECOS by July 1, 2010. Beginning July 6, claims for all services ordered or referred by a physician/provider will be denied if the ordering/referring physician is not in PECOS. CMS has compiled a list of providers who are in PECOS which can be accessed on their web site, <http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/OrderingReferringReport.pdf> .

Want Updates on HITECH Regulation – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is preparing to release the final rule regarding the “meaningful use” definition in the HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) regulation, as well as the incentive payments program requirements. If you would like CMS to update you when this information is available, please make sure Patrick Hamilton of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-Philadelphia Regional Office has your name and e-mail.

CMS Provides Updates by E-mail -- Get the latest Medicare and Medicaid news through the weekly CMS electronic newsletter. Provide your e-mail to Patrick Hamilton if you want to receive the latest updates from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-Philadelphia Regional Office, Patrick.Hamilton@cms.hhs.gov .

Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Online -- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched the official website for the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. This website provides the most up-to-date, detailed information about the EHR incentive programs. The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals and hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. Bookmark this site and visit <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/> often to learn about who is eligible for the programs, how to register, meaningful use, upcoming EHR training and events, and much more!

What's New in Harrisburg – An update on the latest happenings with pending legislation in Harrisburg can be found on the Pennsylvania Medical Society web site, www.pamedsoc.org. Once on the homepage, visit the Government tab and then the link News from Harrisburg.

Call for Entries, Residents & Fellows -- The Resident and Fellow Section of the Pennsylvania Medical Society invites members to submit clinical abstracts for poster presentations at the 2010 Annual House of Delegates meeting, Oct. 22-24 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. The deadline to submit abstracts is Aug. 16. This contest is restricted to residents and fellows holding a Pennsylvania medical license. Questions? Contact Theresa Phillips at (800) 228-7823, ext. 2621 or email rfs@pamedsoc.org .

IBC Reimbursement Changes Coming --Independence Blue Cross (IBC) will change reimbursement rates effective July 1. These changes could translate to increases for some physicians and decreases for others. According to IBC, physicians participating with their commercial plans will see an aggregate increase of about 4.5 percent, while those participating with their Medicare Advantage plans will see an aggregate increase of around 1.5 percent. However, reimbursement changes will vary depending on specialty and services provided. For more information, call IBC at (888) 289-3039 or send a fax inquiry to (215) 761-0384.

Free Public Health Institute Seminar in July – A regional Public Health Institute (PHI), sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and in coordination with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness, will be held July 27 in King of Prussia. The intended goals of the PHI are optimal public health preparedness and, thus, community resilience. The training seminar is for health professionals across multiple disciplines and staffing levels. There is no fee to attend the institute and breakfast and lunch are provided. For more information, contact Carol Reichbaum at upcphp@pitt.edu or 412-383-2801 or register at <http://www.prepare.pitt.edu/register/rphi/Default.aspx> .

Need CME? Don't Let Non-Compliance Cost You – The two-year license CME renewal period is up on Oct. 31, 2010, for DOs and Dec. 31, 2010, for MDs. By then, physicians will need 100 hours of CME, 12 of which must be in patient safety and risk management. For DOs, 20 must be AOA Category 1-A. MDs must have 20.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*TM. The Pennsylvania Medical Society offers a number of CME activities to help you get there. Visit www.pamedsoc.org/cme to browse activities by topic and www.pamedsoc.org/newsletters to browse by publication. All of our activities are designed to meet patient safety and risk management requirements.

Patients Want to Find You – Make sure you are signed up with Find-A-Physician, the Pennsylvania Medical Society online referral service, www.pamedsoc.org . It's free, and only members are listed. But if you've never completed or updated your Member Profile on the website then patients aren't seeing information about you. There are only three steps to new referrals:

--Log in to www.pamedsoc.org. (Need help logging in? First-time users should create an account. Previous users should use Login Help to recover usernames or passwords.)

--Go to [Member Profile Updates](#)

--Make sure you include as much information as you wish to be available. (You can also choose to NOT have your information show.)

For more help, email stat@pamedsoc.org or call (800) 228-7823.

You are receiving this special announcement as a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society. If this communication was sent in error, please contact MCMS at (610) 878-9530.