

Philadelphia Medicine



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AMA House of Delegates covers several resolutions and recommendations on Affordable Care Act

Resolution 111 asks that the AMA work to eliminate the “three day” requirement or inpatient hospital admission prior to skilled nursing facility admission as a prerequisite for Medicare coverage and substitute other appropriate criteria that would allow for timely and appropriate skilled nursing facility placement of Medicare patients.

Currently there exists a three day-requirement as a prerequisite for Medicare. This has caused a major cost burden to patients who then have had to pay for nursing care because they did not satisfy the three day requirement. The AMA House of Delegates passed a resolution advocating for Part A coverage for patients who are admitted to nursing homes, thereby going around the three-day requirement.

Resolution 231 calls for the American medical Association to develop a policy statement on the following aspects of the Affordable care Act (ACA) and health reform:

1. Opposition to all P4P or VBP that fail to comply with the AMA's Principles and Guidelines;
2. Repeal and appropriate replacement of the SGR;
- 3; Repeal and replace the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) with a payment mechanism that complies with AMA principles and guidelines;
4. Support for Medical Savings Accounts, Flexible Spending Accounts, and the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (“private contracting”);
5. Support steps that will likely produce reduced healthcare costs, lower health insurance premiums,

provide for a sustainable` expansion of healthcare coverage, and protect Medicare for-future generations;

6.-Repeal the non-physician provider non-discrimination r provisions of the ACA; and be it further RESOLVED, That the AMA immediately direct sufficient funds toward a multi-pronged campaign to accomplish these goals; and be it further RESOLVED, That there be a report back at each meeting of the AMA House of Delegates.

Testimony heard on Resolution 111 supported reaffirmation of existing policy; however, some testimony favored adoption of this resolution out of concern that reaffirmation would not help eliminate the three-day inpatient hospital requirement for Medicare coverage of skilled nursing facility services.

Multiple speakers emphasized that current federal observation care policy is archaic and problematic. Others spoke about the costs associated with hospitalizing patients for 72 hours for non-acute treatments to qualify for post-hospital skilled nursing facility care.

It was repeatedly suggested that legislative and/or regulatory relief is very much needed, and that the AMA has had policies in place to eliminate the three-day stay for several years.

Please see AMA House on page 3

Change of address?

Phone 215-563-5343, Ext. 102 with any change of address, phone, fax number, or e-mail address.

PCMS NEWS

Approach To the Patient with Abnormal Liver Function Tests CME Program

Wednesday, September 18

PCMS headquarters

Program: 6:30-8:30 PM

NO FEE to attend but you must pre-register by Monday, September 16.

Educator: David Sass, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical Director of Liver Transplantation, Jefferson Medical College.

For more information and to register:

<http://philamedsoc.org/index.php/2013/08/15/approach-to-the-patient-with-abnormal-liver-function-tests-cme-program>

or

www.facebook.com/events/427660820685698/

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or “Obamacare”

Ready or not, here it comes Thursday, September 26, 2013

6:00 pm: Heavy appetizers

6:30-8:00 pm: Program

Location: PCMS headquarters

See attached flyer

Teaching Physicians to See CME Program

Friday, September 27

6:00–7:00 PM: Dinner and Lecture

PCMS headquarters

2100 Spring Garden Street

7:00–8:30 PM: Docent Tour

The Barnes Foundation

2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Cost: \$95/person

Check payable to PCMS

Mail check to PCMS, 2100 Spring

Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Deadline: Friday, September 13, 2013

Physician volunteers needed for Doctors on Call Program

Thursday, October 30, at KYW- TV 3

Time: 4:30-6:30 PM

Phone 215-563-5343, ext 113.

We're on Facebook!

Want to read more about your fellow PCMS members and medical history in Philadelphia?

Check out our new Facebook page www.facebook.com/PhilaMedSoc



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 HEALTHCARE MEDIA INTERNATIONAL

Editorial

Excerpts from inaugural speech of PCMS President Dr. Curtis Miyamoto



There are 9080 physicians in Philadelphia and 25,800 in the entire state. There are 373.7 physicians and 414 hospital beds per 100,000 people.

I have often heard people quote that more physicians have been educated in Philadelphia than from any other city in the US. In short, we have a very proud heritage and a massive responsibility not only to our patients but to the city as a whole. If healthcare declines in Philadelphia everyone will suffer.

This is a critical year in medicine that will usher in huge changes that will challenge all of us and our patients. There are many active issues including the Affordable Care Act, sequestration, sustainable growth rate, lower reimbursements, expanding accountable care organizations, creation of increasing numbers of medical homes, transition of RAC audits from the major health systems to smaller practices, declining memberships, elimination of disproportionate care payments, possible reorganization of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and much more.

All of these issues affect everyone and our ability to fulfill our lifelong pledge to care for our patients.

I plan to bring together the multi-specialty medical societies. All of us face the common problems of declining membership, a city with diminishing resources, a growing population of patients that are under- or uninsured. The PCMS will help all of you maximize resources, improve care for all Philadelphians and make this an example for the nation.

PCMS will continue to serve as the local resource for our physicians and patients for transition into the Affordable Care Act. There will likely be much confusion over this especially in Philadelphia. There is a lot of education and organization that will need to take place for us to prevail. We will endeavor to have educational sessions, clear explanations and printable documents. We want all of

you to come to us to help you through this. We will also serve as an open forum for education including continuation and growth of low cost and free CME programs.

We will continue to work to improve the level of care in Philadelphia 2/3 of our city are overweight (34%) or obese (32%), 25% are smokers (21% in the US), 36% hypertensive (31% in the US) and 13% diabetics (8% in the US). This is unacceptable. It is vital that we continue programs like the block captains outreach for education and screening.

We will work with the healthcare providers, Harrisburg, city council, the mayor, medical schools, health systems, physicians, insurance companies and others to implement programs to care for the still uninsured and sometimes undocumented. Right now 16.1% of adults and 4.9% of children are uninsured. This is twice that of the nation (7.8%). It is still debated how much this will improve under the ACA.

We will work on cultural competency. The fastest growing groups in our city are Hispanics and Asians. Both have grown over 40%. We need to improve in these areas. There is no doubt that this improves care.

I thank my wife, Amparo, and my family for their support, all the staff of the PCMS in advance for their hard work, the Temple University Health System for giving the time, support and resources, my colleagues and staff who need to cover me more than ever before, and the PCMS supporters present tonight and those who will be joining us in the future.

For the full text of Dr. Miyamoto's speech, visit www.philamedsoc.com.

Host your event at PCMS

Host your next party or conference/ seminar at PCMS headquarters. Ample free parking. Contact Louise Eder on 215-563-5343, Ext. 107 to schedule an appointment.

AMA House of Delegates

continued from page 1

1. CMS should rescind its three-day inpatient stay requirement for coverage of SNF care per its clear statutory authority to do so in Section 1812(F) of the Social Security Act, or should allow outpatient observation care days to count toward the three-day stay requirement.

2. CMS should convene a workshop with all affected stakeholders, including representatives of physicians, patients, and hospitals, to discuss common-sense, comprehensive solutions to the issues outlined in our comments.

3. CMS should revise its current policy regarding changes in a patient admission status to require the concurrence of the admitting physician.

4. CMS should preclude Medicare contractor recoupments from physicians associated with inappropriate admissions or discrepancies between the hospital and physician's site of service.

5. CMS should require that claims edit software be developed with meaningful physician input and be transparent, and should preclude claim denials that do not have the concurrence of a practicing physician in the same specialty as the treating physician.

6. Should CMS adopt its Part A to Part B re-billing proposal, CMS should take steps to mitigate beneficiary liability.

7. Should CMS adopt its Part A to Part B re-billing proposal, CMS should make clear that physicians are to be held harmless from claim denials or audits.

Obituary

Doris Gorka Bartuska, MD, FACP, FACE,
past president of PCMS, 1989-90, died on August 4, 2013.

Dr. Bartuska was Emeritus Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) at Drexel University School of Medicine, formerly Medical College of Pennsylvania/Hahnemann University. She had been the Director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism and the Fellowship Training Program at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was known in academia as a consultant in endocrine and rare metabolic disorders.

Dr. Bartuska graduated from Bucknell University and obtained her medical degree from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMC), now Drexel University College of Medicine, where she had a rotating internship and fellowship and residency in medicine.

Her ability and dedication as a teacher were recognized by numerous awards including the Strittmatter Award presented in 2002, the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for her work at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and she was named an Outstanding Educator of America and a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania.



As well as being elected president of PCMS, she was president of the medical staff at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and served as president of the American Medical Women's Association in 1988. As AMWA president, she focused on stimulating national interest in a woman's health agenda with particular emphasis on preventing and treating osteoporosis and smoking and smoke-related disease.

She is listed in the World Who's Who of American Women and the World Who's Who of Women. Her involvement in medical humanities and medical ethics led her participating in the President's Forum on Physicians and Society Responsibility.

Dr. Bartuska was a leader in organized medicine and recently served as Delegate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society and on the Committee to Nominate Delegates to the American Medical Association.

Dr. Bartuska was proud of her Polish heritage and enjoyed Polish music and dance. She was an accomplished musician having studied piano, organ and coloratura voice. She was the mother of six children and had nine grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Anthony J. Bartuska.

Are there enough doctors?

While much attention has been paid to the dangers of going without health coverage, insurance is not the only hurdle to getting access to care.

Another is finding a primary care physician.

And it's hard to see a doctor if there aren't enough of them practicing near where you live. Indeed, one analysis found that each primary care physician per 10,000 population was associated with a 5.3% reduction in the average mortality rate.

When the main provisions of the federal healthcare overhaul kick in next year, more people will have health insurance — but they still will have to find a family doctor. In the Philadelphia region, the ratio of practicing primary care physicians, including pediatricians, to population varies widely from county to county. The city of Philadelphia, for all its top medical institutions packed with specialists, has just half as many primary care doctors given the population that Montgomery County does.

County	Number of Primary Care Physicians	Ratio: Doctor to Population
Delaware	640	1:874
Bucks	555	1:1,127
Chester	426	1:1,175
Philadelphia	970	1:1,575



pcms people



Strittmatter Awardee Audrey Evans, MD, and presenter Edward Cooper, MD



Vanitha Appadorai Vaidya, MD, Award for Humaness in Medicine winner Jocelyn P. Edathil, MD, PhD, and presenter Shailendra S. Vaidya, MD



Dr. Miyamoto presents Dr. Lefton with the Presidential Citation



Practitioner of the Year Awardee Frank T. Leone, MD, and presenter Walter Tsou, MD

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