

Philadelphia Medicine



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Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2013 House of Delegates Recap

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) House of Delegates meeting was held Oct. 26-27, 2013 in Hershey. The HOD is the Society's policymaking body. It is made up of over 300 elected members. During the two-day meeting held each year, it deliberates and acts on issues related to health policy, managed care, public health, programming, and Society administration.

The Philadelphia County (PCMS) Delegation consisted of 42 voting delegates, 5 alternate delegates. Serving on the PCMS Delegation carries with it the responsibility of representing the physicians of Philadelphia County, but it also provides an opportunity to influence the policies of organized medicine. This year the PCMS delegates deliberated 25 resolutions and elected trustees and officers. For a complete listing of the 2013 PAMED HOD resolutions, go to www.pamed.org.

Below is a summary of 2013 PCMS resolutions submitted:

Reference Committee B (Education and Science/Public Health)

Adopted Resolutions 13-204:

Opposition to Maintenance of Licensure (MOL)

The PAMED set as policy opposition to require the FSMB "maintenance of licensure (MOL)" program as a condition of state medical licensure.

Adopted the first and fourth resolves on Resolution 13-203 Opposition of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and referred for study to the Board of Trustees the second and third resolves.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) acknowledges that the certification requirements within the MOC process are costly, time intensive, and result in significant disruptions to the availability of physicians for patient care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that PAMED petition the American Medical Association (AMA) to work with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to eliminate from the requirements of MOC practice performance assessment modules as a first step in making MOC less onerous.

RESOLVED, that if no action is taken by the ABMS in working with the AMA to make MOC requirements less onerous, then the AMA revoke its support for MOC, as evidenced on the ABMS website (http://www.abms.org/Maintenance_of_Certification/support.aspx).

RESOLVED, That PAMED oppose mandatory MOC as a condition of medical licensure, and encourage physicians to strive constantly to improve their care of patients by the means they find most effective.

Reference Committee D (Mcare Fund/ Tort Reform/ Other Legislation/ Regulations)

Adopted as Amended Resolution 13-402; PAMED Support for a Moratorium on Fracking.

Urge the EPA to immediately release the interim results of the ongoing study on effects on hydraulic fracturing on human health and the environment so that the policy makers are not delayed in addressing these issues. An immediate moratorium was not supported at this time until the EPA study can be evaluated.

Reference Committee E (Membership / Leadership / Subsidiaries)

Rejected Resolution 13-502: Bring back the Council and Leadership Conference

Called on the PAMED to immediately restore the standing councils in four areas: Medical Service, Legislative, Medical-Legal and Ethical. It also calls for the revival of the annual spring leadership conference funded for success by the endowment beginning with one devoted to the Affordable Care Act.

PCMS NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Educational Program: Meeting the Challenge: Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers

Place: The Philadelphia County Medical Society, 2100 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Time: 8:00 AM – 12 Noon

Topics of Discussion include:

- Robotic Cancer Surgery
- Proton Therapy
- Screening and Genetics
- Stem Cell Transplantation as it relates to Bone Marrow Transplantation

Program is open to all physicians. No charge

RSVP: stat@philamedsoc.org

Physician Leadership Day

As the Affordable Care Act goes into effect, Pennsylvania physicians are working together with legislators to lead in this time of change and transition.

To spotlight physicians' concerns, PAMED leaders and members will gather at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013, in Harrisburg to participate in Physician Leadership Day. Physicians will attend a media event at the Capitol and then visit with their legislators to push for support of measures to help keep Pennsylvania's healthcare teams strong and patient centered.

PCMS members who are interested in attending may contact the PAMED Department of Legislative Affairs at 717-558-7823 or online at www.pamedsoc.org/Forms/LeadershipDay-Registration.html.

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



Philadelphia Medicine



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HMI HEALTHCARE MEDIA INTERNATIONAL

Editorial

Improving care with diminishing resources

By Curtis T. Miyamoto, MD



It is very clear that the federal government and the states are reducing expenditures and expecting better utilization of healthcare resources. This has created an even bigger challenge for Pennsylvania and especially for the healthcare system in Philadelphia.

If we are to accomplish this it will require a change in our process of decision-making with regard to purchasing new equipment and initiating programs. We will have to review what is needed in the city and region versus attempts to directly compete with the other institutions. This would increase the available diagnostic and treatment capabilities while reducing redundancy. The return on investment would also potentially be improved. Of course, these decisions must be objective and add real value.

Cooperation among institutions must be carried to a higher level than currently exists. All institutions should be involved. If this were accomplished, it would make Philadelphia a model for this type of collaboration for all major cities in the United States. Of course, there are states in which a "Certificate of Need (CON)" granted by the state is required prior to purchasing of major equipment, hospital expansions and upgrades. This was sunset in Pennsylvania in 1996.

However, Jim Ferlo (Democrat State Senator serving parts of Allegheny, Armstrong and Westmoreland counties and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee) is reintroducing Senate Bill 1542 to reenact, update and improve Pennsylvania's CON program. As before, it is intended to help control healthcare costs by giving the Department of Health and a newly created CON review board the power to review proposed hospital expenditures to expand facilities and add new clinically relevant healthcare services. The healthcare CON review board will consist of 11 members appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. They will have expertise in healthcare economics but will not necessarily be physicians.

A plan will be provided for each region of the state to fill in the gaps in needed services and provide the CON review board on the quantitative and qualitative standards for reviewing the CON and applications. Public hearings will be held in the affected area. The bill, as currently written, will make for hospital improvements of over \$2 million, high cost new technology equipment or facility improvements in ambulatory surgical facilities of over \$1 million and any new high cost technology over \$500,000.

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The PA Secretary of the Department of Health will appoint a community-based health services planning committee composed of local elected officials and other decision-makers to provide insight on whether or not a proposed facility or services are needed. The CON review board will approve or deny any CON application.

In other words, if we as healthcare providers do not come up with a plan for better utilization of resources and cooperation, the state is more likely to approve Senate Bill 1542.

The decision will then be turned over to the above-mentioned boards rather than remain in the hands of physicians and health systems.

I believe this would be a disservice to our patients and profession.

Dr. Miyamoto is President of PCMS.

All events are posted on the PCMS website. These include CME programs and seminars from outside sources. If you would like to post your event on the website, call 215-563-5343, Ext. 102

Legislative Update in Harrisburg

1. Prompt credentialing by payers. Payers should be required to complete the credentialing process within 60 days, and should be required to reimburse provisionally 15 days into the credentialing process. Legislation is being drafted.
2. “Benevolent Gesture Medical Professional Liability Act” (SB 379) also known as the Apology legislation (SB 379). Physicians should be able to apologize or make other benevolent gestures after a bad outcome without having to worry that a trial lawyer will use their words against them in a malpractice lawsuit. This bill has been signed into law and becomes effective on December 24. It protects all apologies and benevolent gestures except outright admissions of negligence. Don’t forget to thank your local legislators for their support.
3. Controlled substance database (HB 1694, likely Senate counterpart). Pennsylvania should join other states in creating a statewide database where all filled prescriptions for controlled substances are entered. This would give physicians the ability to see if a patient they are concerned about has been engaged in doctor-shopping. We are urging support for HB 1694 or similar Senate counterpart.
4. Senator Pat Vance (R-Cumberland) has introduced SB 1063, legislation authorizing full independent practice for CRNPs. This is one of several scope of practice initiatives PAMED is dealing with, including:
 - a) Pharmacists’ desire to administer injectable immunizations to minors (HB 776);
 - b) Audiologists’ desire to independently do inter-operative monitoring of neurological function during surgery (SB 317);
 - c) Naturopath licensure and scope of practice (HB 612).

Please ask legislators to oppose these initiatives and make patient safety their primary concern when considering any scope of practice legislation.

After years of effort, the House has passed HB 1259, legislation regulating tanning salons and limiting their use by minors. The bill is now in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. PCMS is urging support for HB 1259.

New zoning overlay could make it harder to open a medical practice in NE Philly

Philadelphia City Councilman Brian J. O’Neill introduced a bill recently creating a “Northeast Zoning Overlay,” which would prohibit certain medical uses in many zoning districts throughout Northeast Philadelphia, in areas where they are currently allowed by right or by special exception.

The bill was likely aimed at preventing the by-right development of methadone clinics and since methadone clinics fall under the medical use category and they are not defined separately in the zoning code.

This new overlay district would also make it harder to open a medical practice. Bill No. 130770 would force zoning hearings for all new methadone clinics, and other medical uses like doctors’ offices in Northeast Philadelphia.

PCMS testified at a zoning hearing

and will meet with O’Neill to amend the overlay district to exclude medical practices.

Stay tuned for additional updates and check out the website for the overlay district.

2014 Dividend Announcement

PMSLIC has declared 2014 dividends of \$4.7 million.

The PMSLIC declared dividend for Pennsylvania equates to approximately 10% of the 2013 premium. This is the 8th year in a row that PMSLIC has declared a dividend in Pennsylvania.

The dividend will be returned in the form of a premium credit with eligible policyholders’ second quarter 2014 renewal statements.

Make sure Medicare claims have valid NPI as of January 6 to avoid denials

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that ordering and referring denial edits will begin to be applied to the processing of claims on January 6, 2014.

These edits will check the following claims for a valid National Provider Identifier (NPI), meaning the NPI indicating the referring physician on the claim is that of a PECOS-enrolled provider, and deny the claim when this information is invalid:

- Claims from clinical laboratories for ordered tests
- Claims from imaging centers for ordered imaging procedures
- Claims from suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) for ordered DMEPOS
- Claims from Part A Home Health Agencies (HHAs)

If you are not already enrolled in PECOS, CMS suggests that you start the enrollment process now so that you are enrolled by January 6, 2014, when the edits will begin.

What is the timeline for your practice?

Running a practice requires adhering to a complicated timeline. Below is a summary of important dates to add to your calendar.

- DECEMBER 31, 2013: Meaningful Use CY 2013 Reporting period ends.
- JANUARY 1, 2014-DECEMBER 31, 2014 -2.0% eRx payment adjustment.
- FEBRUARY 28, 2014: Meaningful Use. Last day eligible professionals can register and attest to receive an incentive payment for CY 2013.



pcms people



Vinay M. Nadkarni, MD, a critical care medicine physician and director of the Center for Simulation, Advanced Education and Innovation at CHOP, has received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Critical Care (SOCC). The SOCC Distinguished Career Award was established in 1995 as an annual award to recognize significant career achievements in the field of pediatric critical care medicine by senior leaders in the Section.

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.



David A. Sass, MD, has been appointed medical director for the liver transplant program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.



The 34th Annual Wohl Lecture was recently held at Temple University School of Medicine. Pictured are **Albert J. Finestone, MD**, and **Milton A. Wohl, MD**.



The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine, Boston, named **Julia A. Haller, MD**, to its board. She is ophthalmologist in chief at Wills Eye Hospital.



Kurt T. Barnhart, MD, has been elected for a three-year term, 2013-2016, as Chair of the Pennsylvania Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Change of address?
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