

CT-ASCP's SenioRx Care Perspective

Winter 2005-06
Volume II, No. 4

Confused by the Medicare
Part D drug benefit?



Visit ASCP's Medicare Drug
Benefit Briefing Room

I wish to thank the Communications Committee for allowing me this forum to share some of the goals the Board of Directors is working towards. I welcome your input regarding these goals and other endeavors you believe we should be undertaking. Perhaps most importantly, I appreciate the continued support I receive from the members of this outstanding chapter.

Chapter Goals

One of the primary goals of this year's Board of Directors is to educate our members on the current status of our chapter and encourage discussion among and between members and the Board of Directors regarding the short-term and long-term chapter goals. As I hope you are aware all members are now invited to attend BOD meetings. I will be posting the meeting announcements on ASCP's website in the CT section of ConsultNet (see page 2 of this Newsletter!). If you have not had a recent opportunity to visit ASCP's website I encourage you to take a few minutes; the address is www.ascp.com. Additionally, I plan to continue monthly e-mail invitations to our members.

Senior Symposium

I trust that many of you have enjoyed the educational experiences, networking opportunities, and camaraderie that our annual Senior Symposium has provided in the last six years. If your schedule has not been conducive to your attending this symposium in the past I encourage you to visit our site: www.seniorsymposium.com where you can view handouts from last year's meeting and even see some of your colleagues posing for pictures in the Picture Gallery portion of this site. Then mark your calendars for the evening of May 11 and all day May 12 so you can be part of this wonderful event!

From the Desk of the Chapter President
Sandy Wojciechowski, PharmD

Legislative Efforts

Our Board of Directors continues to make great strides in educating our legislators on the value of the pharmaceutical care our members provide. I urge each of you to take the time to contact your local representatives early this year to foster positive relationships so your legislator will trust you to provide valuable input regarding the impact of proposed legislation. A visit to your pharmacy and / or a health care facility you service affords a priceless opportunity for your legislators to begin to understand the significant impact you have on the health care of the residents of this fine state. Once our legislators gain an appreciation for this positive impact and an understanding of the costs of providing these services they will be better equipped to make decisions that allow pharmacists to continue to provide quality pharmaceutical care and improve lives.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. I look forward to providing future updates and welcome your feedback.

Sandy

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National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Adapted from www.ascp.com

The Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated the adoption of a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) collects identifying information on health care providers and assigns each a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI). As of May 23, 2005, all health care providers can apply for their National Provider Identifier (NPI). The NPI will replace health care provider identifiers used in standard health care transactions today. The health plans with which you do business will instruct you as to when you may begin using the NPI in standard transactions. All HIPAA-covered entities except small health plans must

begin using the NPI no later than May 23, 2007.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that Medicare fee-for-service claims submitted using the NPI will be accepted beginning January 3, 2006 if they are also submitted with a legacy Medicare number. Beginning October 1, 2006, claims may be submitted using the NPI alone, but the legacy Medicare numbers will also be accepted. As of May 23, 2007, legacy numbers will no longer be accepted, and the NPI will be the only identifier providers can use to be reimbursed for their services.

To apply for your NPI, visit: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>

For More Information On How to Obtain a National Provider Identifier, visit:

ASCP website:

www.ascp.com

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:

www.cms.hhs.gov

National Plan & Provider Enumeration System:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>

ConsultNet™ Message Boards: Keeping CT-ASCP Connected

1. Visit the ASCP.com website: www.ascp.com
2. Click on "ConsultNet™ Message Boards" at the very top of the ASCP homepage (6th item down)
3. Under "ASCP Chapters," click on "Connecticut Chapter"
4. Any new postings from Sandy or the BoD will be posted here.

Communications Committee:

- Amy Huie-Li, PharmD, CGP
- Anna Egle, RPh, FASCP
- Kevin Chamberlin, PharmD
- Brian Pelletier, PharmD

Best wishes from the CT-ASCP Board of Directors for a Safe, Healthy, & Happy New Year!!

Notes 'n Votes

December 2005 Board Meeting

Submitted by: Michel Fortin, RPh, CGP

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 10-24-05 meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There were no bills paid or deposits made since the last report. Financial Report was approved as submitted.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Senior Symposium 2006 (SS06)

Website: www.seniorsymposium.com. Scheduled for May 11 & 12, 2006. D. Cooper stated the following sponsors had committed to sponsoring SS06: Abbott, Esprit and Pfizer. S. Wojciechowski suggested the possibility of having an introductory session for new members with John Feather and Bob Miller from ASCP as speakers. Walgreens is having their pharmacists take the on-line CGP review course and then take the exam. M. Wrabel suggested having Dr. Vincent speak to the chapter membership at a small CE program in early 2006.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

D. Cleary discussed the campaign finance reform bill which will take effect on 12-31-06. The CT Medicaid & ConnPace wrap-around will be implemented. Pharmacy Day at the Capital is tentatively scheduled for 2-22-06. Peggy Sayers will speak and Jim Amman agreed to hold a session that day.

NEWS FROM UCONN

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The next newsletter issue will come out soon and it will include part 2 of a Medicare-D discussion and a letter from Sandy. It will also have a "save the date" insert to market Pharmacy Day at the Capital.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

S. Wojciechowski plans to send new CGP recipients a letter signed by the BOD members inviting them to join CT ASCP along with a discount from ASCP to join national. M. Wrabel asked about the idea of a scholarship. Discussion was favorable but the LRPC must meet to brainstorm about this.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Mike Murphy introduced Bonnie Perry as his counterpart in CT. Also present: Rebecca Daleb and Walt Tamulis, all from Astra-Zeneca.

They were thanked by the BOD for their sponsorship and attendance at this meeting.

MEMBER NAME & TITLE	12
Sandy Wojciechowski, President	X
Sean Jeffery, President-Elect / Education Chair	
Jim Conklin, Immed. Past-President / PAC Chair	X
Michel Fortin, Secretary / Treasurer	X
Mark Wrabel, Board 2005 / Programs Chair	X
Amy Huie-Li, Board 2005 / Communic. Co-Chair	
Dennis Chapron, Board 2003	
John Cannarella, Board 2003	X
Kevin Chamberlin, Board2004 / Communic.Comm	
Anna Egle, Board 2004 / Communic. Co-Chair	
Larry Sobel, President Emeritus / Legislative Chair	X
Gene Memoli, Past President / Chair Senior Symp.	X
David Cooper, Past President / Sales Senior Symp	X
Jack Ziskin, Past President / Membership Chair	X
Sheldon Sones, Past President	
Bryan Lentini, Senior Symposium Committee	
Paul Belcher, PAC Committee	X
George D'Agostino, PAC Committee	
Brian Pelletier, Communic. Committee	

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meetings:

Monday, January 9, 2006 at 5:30pm

Location: First & Last Tavern,
220 N. Main St., Middletown, CT 860-347-2220

Monday, February 6, 2006

Time & Location: TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Michel Fortin, Secretary