ASCP California Chapter

In this Issue

**Meeting Date, Time and Call In Information**

*Wednesday February 18th 7pm*
Phone number: 1-800-689-9374
Access code: 372416#
Agenda and Minutes In This Newsletter – See Below
Dates to Remember / Special Events

Calendar of Events

See the full calendar online.

March 15, 2015
- MD Chapter MidYear Meeting
  Linthicum Heights, Maryland

March 17, 2015
- ASCP Connecticut Chapter
  Schwarting Senior Symposium
  8:00 am to 5:00 pm
  Plantsville, Connecticut

April 18, 2015
- MD ASCP Spring Spectacular
  Baltimore, MD

April 18, 2015
- TX ASCP Spring CE Meeting
  Fort Worth, TX

April 27-28, 2015
- ASCP Forum
  Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
  Baltimore, MD

June 4, 2015
- NY Mid-State Meeting & CE Day
Syracuse, NY
July 17-19, 2015
27th Annual Midwest Regional Conference
9:00am to 5:00pm
Oakbrook, Illinois

August 7-9, 2015
22nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference
9:00am to 5:00pm
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

October 30-November 1, 2015
2015 ASCP Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

General Information

Online access to *The Consultant Pharmacist®* in three easy steps:

1. Login as a member on [www.ascp.com](http://www.ascp.com)
2. Click on your member page (the green tab)
3. Under “My Journal” on the left side, click “Read *The Consultant Pharmacist®*”

Share articles with your colleagues:
Non-members can view the table of contents and article abstracts, with the option of purchasing the full articles individually. Those who are not members and wish to receive *The Consultant Pharmacist®* will want to consider joining ASCP.

**CMS Releases Final Medicare Part D Rule**

On Friday, February 6, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a pre-published version of a Final Medicare Part D Rule for plan year 2016. The rule, likely to be published in the Federal Register on Thursday, February 12, seeks to finalize several of the provisions from last year’s controversial proposed rule that weren't addressed in the plan year 2015 final rule (released last spring).
After a preliminary review of the rule, ASCP staff found that only a few key provisions are being finalized, specifically, the business continuity for Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations and Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) sponsors and the efficient dispensing in long term care (LTC) facilities and other changes. The first provision would require MA organizations and PDP sponsors to have a plan in place to restore essential services within 72 hours of a system failure. The second provision stipulates that, beginning in 2016, plans would be prohibited from reimbursing LTC pharmacies in a manner that would discourage efficient dispensing (i.e. prorated dispensing fees). The provisions we saw in the plan year 2015 proposed rule that aren’t being finalized include the expansion of the medication therapy management (MTM) beneficiary pool and the exceptions to drug categories or classes of clinical concern (six protected classes). While it doesn’t appear to be controversial, ASCP staff will continue to review the rule in an effort to seek out any other provisions that may have an impact on LTC pharmacies.

California State Board of Pharmacy

Board of Pharmacy Update:

The Board of Pharmacy reconvened for their first full board meeting in 2015 on January 27th and 28th in Sacramento. Major actions took place over the course of the two days. The Board voted to pursue legislation around standardized translations on labels. CPhA expressed concerns over pharmacists’ professional liability when printing translated prescription labels and will continue to advocate for liability protection if such legislation is presented. The Board also voted to pursue legislation on the licensing of 503B outsourcing facilities. Finally, the SB 493 Implementation Committee presented and reviewed the draft protocols on hormonal contraception, nicotine replacement products and naloxone hydrochloride. The Board announced that they would present the draft regulations to the Medical Board, and on January 30, regulators from both boards voted unanimously to approve the three statewide protocols. These protocols must now be formalized as regulations.

Video recordings of the board meeting can be viewed here: January 27th and January 28
Welcome

Approval of the minutes

Executive Board reports

Treasurer report –

ASCP National initiatives -

Committee Reports
  
  Policy and Advocacy –

  Communication-

  Newsletter –

  Membership-

Liaison reports

Board of Pharmacy –

CCAP –

CPhA –
CAHF –
CALTCM –
CSHP-
ADONA –

Student Chapter Reports
   UCSD –
   USC-
   UOP-

CDPH –

Old Business

New Business

Meeting Adjournment