

MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

eNewsline

August 14, 2015

Vol. 22, No. 14

Act Now to Limit Cost Shifting By Insurers

Do You Have A Patient Who Has Been Negatively Affected By High Drug Copays?

Access to prescription drugs is important to patient health, but excessive insurer drug copays have made it difficult for patients in the District to afford needed medications. Neighboring states have already taken action on the issue, but the District lags behind. An MSDC-led coalition has been working throughout the summer to move forward legislation to increase affordable access to valuable medications. Your help is important to securing a Public Hearing.

The DC Council Needs to Hear From You and Your Patients

Patient stories are critical to raising awareness of the negative impact of high drug copays on patients. Visit the [Medical Society's Call to Action page](#) to see how to share your patients' stories with the DC Council.

ICD-10 Deadline is Just Weeks Away

Report Finds That Nearly Half of All Physicians Are Unprepared

Almost one in two physicians may not be ready for conversion to the the ICD-10 code set on October 1, 2015, according to a study referenced in [Medscape Medical News](#). The article states that some physicians may have misinterpreted the July guidance from The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare (CMS) as protection from claims denial, an erroneous interpretation that could lead to rejected claim codes and could have hazardous repercussions on cash flow.

Officials and physician advocates, including [MSDC Past President Victor Freeman, MD](#), emphasize that there is no delay in the ICD-10 deadline. According to CMS' Official Guidance, "Medicare claims with a date of service on or after October 1, 2015, will be rejected if they do not contain a valid ICD-10 code." [Additional Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions](#) from CMS states further that "The Official Guidance only applies to Medicare fee-for-service claims from physician or other practitioner claims billed under the Medicare Fee-for-Service Part B physician fee schedule. Each commercial payer will have to determine whether it will offer similar audit flexibilities."

Avoid Potential Claim Denials; Get Ready Now

To help you master ICD-10-CM and the documentation requirements associated with your specialty, the Medical Society is offering [specialty-specific webinars](#). In-person training for practices and other educational programs and resources are also available on [MSDC's ICD-10 website](#).

CMS Acting Administrator Will Discuss ICD-10 on August 27 Provider Call

CMS will host a call for physicians preparing for ICD-10 from 2:30 to 4 PM (Eastern) on August 27. CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt will open the call with a national implementation update. Then, experts will discuss last-minute steps to prepare for the transition to the new code set, as well the added flexibility around billing, audits, and quality measure calculations. [Register](#) as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Mayor Bowser Proclaims that August is Adult Immunization Month

This week, Mayor Muriel Bowser [proclaimed](#) that August is Adult Immunization Awareness Month in the District of Columbia. The proclamation noted that vaccines have aided in reducing widespread and

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often fatal diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a variety of vaccines for adults 18 and older. Information about CDC recommendations can be found on the [CDC website](#).

MSDC Partners With 30+ Public Health Groups to Help DC Call It Quits

Week-long Smoking Cessation Campaign Will Take Place September 21-25

MSDC has partnered with the DC Department of Health and 30+ local health groups on a citywide smoking cessation campaign called [DC Calls It Quits!](#) The campaign, taking place September 21-25, 2015, will educate Washingtonians about the risks of smoking and provide information on the DC Quitline, cessation resources and events to help smokers quit. Please share information with your patients on smoking cessation resources available on the [DC Calls It Quits!](#) website. Also, feel free to contact [the Medical Society](#) if you would like to participate or have a patient story to share.

Tenth Annual Drug Take-Back Day Is Scheduled for September 26

To help the fight against prescription drug abuse and diversion, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced that it will bring back the National Prescription Drug [Take-Back Day event](#). The 10th Take-Back Day will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015, from 10 AM to 2 PM at participating locations nationwide. DEA will list collection sites on its website; a link to the list of sites will also be available on the AwarxE[®] Prescription Drug Safety Program [website](#). Properly disposing of medications keeps medicine out of the hands of someone who might abuse them and also protects the environment.

Potential Refund for Physicians Who Practiced in Pennsylvania

If you practiced medicine in Pennsylvania in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2014, you may be eligible for a refund payment from the Mcare Fund, a Pennsylvania fund that provides excess medical liability coverage for physicians and certain other health care providers. You may be eligible even if your Pennsylvania license is no longer active. To learn about eligibility and the requirements to receive a refund, visit the www.McareRefund.org website.

As previously reported in [eNewsline \(see page 2\)](#), the refunds are required as a result of a settlement of litigation involving the Mcare Fund brought by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) and other provider organizations. PAMED warns that physicians may have already received, or in the future may receive, a request to assign one or more refunds from a person or entity that paid the assessments on their behalf, such as a health system or medical practice employer. [Learn the correct process for refund assignments](#).

MSDC News: Save the Date for the Annual Meeting, Nominate a Physician Leader

2015 Annual Meeting Taking Place on October 28, 2015 - Registration Opens Soon!

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia will hold its 2015 Annual Meeting and Reception on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, from 6:00 to 9:30 pm at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Total Health. The meeting will include the installation of 2015-16 President Carla C. Sandy, MD, and the final address from outgoing President John Larsen, MD. Registration will open in late Summer.

The Medical Society would like to thank its 2015 Meeting Sponsors for their generous support: **Medical Society Services, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, Nixon Medical Wear and Uniform Services, Johns Hopkins Healthcare and ProAssurance**. For information on how you can support the 2015 Annual Meeting, contact [Pia Duryea](#).

Recognize a Physician Leader with an MSDC Special Award

Do you know someone deserving of recognition by the medical community? Then nominate them for one of the MSDC Special Awards listed below. Information is available [online](#) and nominations are due on September 7, 2015.

* **Certificate of Meritorious Service**. Presented to a physician in recognition of distinguished service to the medical profession.

Susanne Bathgate, MD

At-large

Julian R. Craig, MD

At-large

Alice Fuisz, MD

At-large

Barry Lewis, MD, MBA

At-large

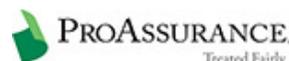
Stuart F. Seides, MD

At-large

K. Edward Shanbacker

Executive Vice President

MSDC 1817 SOCIETY



CORPORATE PARTNERS



* **Dr. Charles H. Epps, III Community Service Award.** Presented to a physician for outstanding public service to the community.

* **Distinguished Service Award.** Presented to a physician member for outstanding service to your Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

* **John Benjamin Nichols Award.** Presented to a lay person, organization, or both, in recognition of outstanding contributions toward improving the health of the community.



Young Physician Event: Financial Planning

September 10, 2015

Young Physicians: Join us on September 10, 2015, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM near McPherson Square Metro in Washington, DC. The Medical Society of DC and the DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians invite you and your colleagues to this Young Physician event focused on financial planning for medical professionals at the Historic SunTrust Building, overlooking the White House and US Treasury.



SunTrust Private Wealth Medical Specialty Group will share their insight on best practices for early- and mid-career physicians with regard to managing debts, addressing risks, and ensuring financial security throughout each phase of a practice. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. [Read more.](#)

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MSDC MEMBER BENEFIT: DC Rx Card

According to an article by Miami Herald, about six of every seven prescriptions filled in the United States today are for generic medicines, as consumers, employers and health plans increasingly turn to generics to save money. At the same time, many insurance plans increasingly shift more of the medicine bill onto patients through higher copayments and bigger deductibles.

The DC Rx Card is a free resource to lower out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions. If you or your patients have a high deductible, or are prescribed a medication not covered by insurance, or have no prescription coverage, the DC Rx Card can save you up to 75%.

Print your free card [online](#). You can also walk into any CVS/Pharmacy and request to use the DC Rx Card. Contact the DC Rx Card at cs@dcrxcard.com.

Public Health Alert: Today's Heroin Epidemic

More People At Risk, Multiple Drugs Abused

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heroin use more than doubled among young adults ages 18–25 in the past decade. [Read more in Vital Signs.](#)

Medicare News: Revised Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Search Tools

Novitas Solutions has released an improved tool that will allow customers to search more policy related documents than before. You will be able to search for ICD-9 LCDs, ICD-9 Local Coverage Articles (Articles), ICD-10 LCDs and Articles, and National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). You'll also get more search power, more accurate results, and the new option to search by date of service. Learn more on the [Novitas website.](#)

Feedback Is Requested on Vital Directions for Health and Health Care

With a new administration on the horizon, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) is undertaking a new initiative, [Vital Directions for Health and Health Care](#), to inform the next administration – and the nation – about the most pressing issues in the next phase of health reform. Vital Directions for Health and Health Care will mobilize the most incisive minds to envision and recommend the future of health care. The initiative will be guided by a steering committee comprised of respected leaders with a wide array of expertise related to health and health care. If you have suggestions for potential topics to be considered by the steering committee, please **send your input to mkanarek@nas.edu by August 14th.** Please see the [Special Announcement](#) for more information.

Participate on the DC Health Exchange Authority Standing Advisory Board

The District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority (DCHBX) announced a vacancy on its Standing Advisory Board and is seeking applicants to fill the position through the term expiring November 14, 2018. Qualifications for the Standing Advisory Board Membership include being a resident of the District of Columbia and having expertise as a health professional. **The deadline to apply is August 24, 2015.** Please see the [Vacancy Announcement](#) for further details.

CLASSIFIEDS

Brought to you by MSDC's 1817 Society Member and Personnel Provider [Favorite Healthcare](#). Contact [Favorite Healthcare](#) for your staffing needs.



Board-Certified Rehabilitation Physician for Hire

A Board-Certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician is available for hire. Licensed to practice in Maryland, the physician has five years of interventional spine and pain management experience. For more information on this doctor, call 202-407-9936 or email MedicalStaffing@FavoriteStaffing.com.

EVENTS

[Ready. Set. Code](#) ICD-10 CM by Specialty

August 19, 2015*: Cardiology/Vascular/Respiratory

August 26, 2015*: Orthopedic/Podiatry/Spine

September 9, 2015*: OB-GYN/ Pediatrics/Urology

September 16, 2015*: Internal Medicine/Family Practice

*additional dates for these webinars can be found by clicking the [full schedule](#).

1:00 -3:00 PM

Online webinar

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Hospital Association and the New Jersey Hospital Association Healthcare Business Solutions (NJHAHBS) have partnered to facilitate a



comprehensive webinar series titled "Ready. Set. Code! ICD-10 CM by Specialty." The series is specialty-specific and is designed to prepare physicians and their practices for ICD10 compliance which is mandated by October 1, 2015. [Register online for a Ready. Set. Code! webinar.](#)

Medical Musical Group

August 16, 2015

4:00 PM

Schlesinger Concert Hall (3001 North Beauregard St. | Alexandria, VA)

Join renowned operatic tenor, Daniel Rodriguez, the incomparable singing star Deana Martin, and The Medical Musical Group Symphony at the GALA TRIBUTE TO WOUNDED WARRIORS AND MILITARY on Sunday, August 16, 2015, 4:00 PM. This special performance commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and will be performed at Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria, VA. For ticket information, please visit www.medicalmusical.org.

Young Physician Event

September 10, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 PM

1445 New York Avenue, NW, 9th Floor | Washington, DC (McPherson Square Metro)

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians and the SunTrust Private Wealth Medical Specialty Group invite you and your colleagues to an evening get together at the scenic SunTrust Reception Room overlooking the White House. SunTrust will share their insight on best practices for Early- and Mid-career Physicians with regard to managing your debts, addressing your risks, and ensuring financial security throughout each phase of your practice. Along with a spectacular view, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Please RSVP to Pia Duryea.

2015 Loss Prevention Seminars

Final Seminars Coming Soon - MSDC Members Save 50% on Registration!

September 15, 2015 (Washington, DC)

September 16, 2015 (Bethesda, MD)

October 6, 2015 (Washington, DC)

DC: American College of Cardiology (2400 N St., NW | Washington, DC 20037)

MD: Bethesda Marriott (5151 Pooks Hill Road | Bethesda, MD)

The practice of medicine has always been dynamic, but rarely has our U.S. healthcare system experienced the scale of change presented during the last two years. This seminar will expand your knowledge of liability concerns related to healthcare's changing landscape, including: Use of patient portals integrated with electronic record systems; Allied healthcare professionals' expanding role in medicine; Increased attention on diagnostic errors.

MSDC members receive a 50% discount and may earn up to 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Register or read more in the [online brochure](#).



[Appropriate Use of Cardiovascular Imaging for the Referring Clinician](#)

Understanding CV Imaging and Nuclear Cardiac Imaging in Women and the Role of Cardiac PET

Thursday, September 17, 2015

2:50 PM – 6:30 PM

Washington Marriott Wardman Park (2660 Woodley Rd. NW | Washington, DC 20008)

Gain competence ordering cardiac imaging procedures to know when to apply appropriate use criteria and guidelines to make it easy and clear for you in ordering nuclear cardiology imaging studies.

[Event](#) is from 2:50 pm to 6:30 pm. American Society for Nuclear Cardiology designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits[™]. Registration is \$25.

Climate Health Summit: Creating Health Leaders on Climate Change

September 20-21, 2015

Join hundreds of health professionals on September 20-21 (Sunday-Monday) in Washington, DC, to learn about the health threats of climate change and how to achieve the health benefits of climate solutions.

Engage with expert speakers in fields of climate impacts on health, health impacts of fossil fuels as well as urban design and carbon pricing.

Learn the best communications strategies to educate your legislators about the Clean Power Plan – an EPA Rule recently endorsed by the AMA along with other actions to take in your hospital and community. CME credits being sought. You won't want to miss this event! Find out more and register [here](#).

Fall Summit On Private Medicine

September 25-26, 2015

Capitol Hilton

The American Academy of Private Physicians www.aapp.org represents a movement in medicine started by physicians committed to recapturing their ability to earn a living by providing excellent medical care. AAPP is dedicated to helping physicians to embrace a more direct financial relationship with patients in order to alleviate the financial and administrative burdens of insurance and start practicing medicine again.

Come learn from the industry leaders. Contact info: sbanyay@aapp.org, 877-746-7301. For registration link, agenda and hotel details, go to <http://aapp.org/upcoming-events/>

MSDC Board of Directors Meeting

September 28, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 PM

MSDC Headquarters (1250 23rd Street NW, 2nd Floor | Washington, DC 20037)

The Medical Society's next board meeting will take place at 6:30 PM on September 28, 2015 at MSDC Headquarters. Current members interested in attending may contact [Ed Shanbacker](#) to request an invitation.

RAD-AID Conference: The Road Ahead for Global Health Radiology

November 7, 2015

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

World Health Organization | Washington, DC

The RAD-AID Conference has six panels. Panels include economic development, public health issues/methods, education strategies, technology development, and clinical model implementation. For more information or to register, [visit the website](#).

MEDICAL REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Brought to you by MSDC Corporate Partner GZ Medical Realty. Contact [Pete Papantoniou](#) for your real estate needs

1145 Medical Office Building

1145 19th St NW

Washington, DC 20036

The medical office building is within walking distance to hospitals and metro stations. Please contact [Peter Papantoniou](#) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.



Alexandria Professional Center

4660 Kenmore Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22304

Alexandria Professional Center is a 119,000 SF medical office building with over 30 medical and dental practices that offers close proximity to INOVA Alexandria Hospital and I395. Contact [Peter Papantoniou](#) at 301-961-1941 or see the [online listing](#) for more information.

