



Lehigh County Medical Society

The mission of the Lehigh County Medical Society is to encourage physicians and healthcare professionals to have the highest moral and ethical standards; to counsel and censure them when necessary; to serve as a strong and united voice for our Lehigh County physicians, our patients and our community; to promote healthful living and well-being and to advance the highest standards of healthcare and service in our region through education, service and advocacy.

Established 1852

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The DR Bulletin

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Article: Database Would Arm Physicians with Tools to Reduce Doctor Shopping

The devastating effects of prescription drug abuse are in the news almost daily. In Pennsylvania the problem is widespread and the statistics are alarming. Pennsylvania rank-10th in the nation for overdose deaths.

Keep the pressure on your state representative to promptly consider and vote yes on a bill that would allow physician apologies.

Senate Bill 379 was approved unanimously by the Senate on June 25. The Pennsylvania Medical Society is encouraging all physicians to contact their state representative to urge prompt consideration in the House and a YES vote. Be sure to also thank your state senator for their yes vote.

SB 379 is a much needed step toward protecting most physician apologies, except for

admissions of negligence, which would remain admissible.

Such legislation was introduced in the state House of Representatives recently by state Rep. Gene DiGirolamo (R-Bucks). House Bill 317 would give physicians access to a controlled substances database so that they would have better knowledge of prescriptions written for a patient by other physicians.

HB 317 awaits a vote by the House, but there's no guarantee that a vote will happen. We need your help to sustain the momentum. Contact your state representative and urge him or her to take action on this issue.

"PAMED is thankful that Rep. DiGirolamo has stepped to the plate to address this issue, and we're hopeful that many more elected leaders share his concern," said Dr. Schott.

We are working to help educate physicians on identifying the red flags of a doctor shopper through our "Pills for Ills, Not Thrills" campaign.

"This is an issue that must be addressed," said Dr. Schott. "Every day that passes allows scammers to go unchecked in Pennsylvania. We encourage our state leaders to attack this issue and join the #PillsForIllsNotThrills effort"

For more than three years, PAMED has worked in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Pain Coalition and many medical specialties and other groups to help update the state's database. PAMED studies show that an effective database can help lower non-medical use of controlled substances and at the same time improve access to pain management care.

Lehigh County Medical Society, 1620 W Highland St, Allentown, PA 18102-1033
Phone: 610-437-2288 Fax: 610-437-0910 www.lcmedsoc.org

Manuscripts offered for publication and other correspondence should be sent to 1620 W Highland St, Allentown, PA.

The DR Bulletin is published six times a year bi-monthly, beginning in January, by the Lehigh County Medical Society.

The editorial board reserves the right to reject and/or alter submitted material before publication. All manuscripts and letters should be typed double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" stationary.

The opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Lehigh County Medical Society.

The ad material is for the information and consideration of the reader. It does not necessarily represent an endorsement or recommendation by the Lehigh County Medical Society.

Preserve Your County Medical Society - The Grassroots of Organized Medicine

REMEMBER

If you change your business or home address and/or phone or fax number, please notify the Lehigh County Medical Society. Call: 610-437-2288

Call to Action:**Apology Bill Still Awaiting Senate Vote**

Keep the pressure on your state senator to vote yes on a bill that would allow physician apologies.

When an unforeseen health care outcome occurs, patients have questions and physicians want to provide answers. Unfortunately, the fact that such a conversation can be used by personal injury lawyers in a medical liability lawsuit often stops open dialogue before it can even start.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society is encouraging all physicians to contact their state senator and ask them to request the Senate's prompt consideration of Senate Bill 379 and to vote yes when it comes up for a vote in their chamber.

SB 379, sponsored by Sen. Pat Vance (R-Cumberland County), would require liability insurers to encourage benevolent gestures by insured health care providers. It would allow physicians and patients to have a full and open conversation after an unforeseen outcome by prohibiting that conversation from being used by plaintiffs in a medical liability lawsuit.

It does not take any legal right away from injured patients or impair their ability to file a personal injury action against a health care provider should they choose to do so. It also does not limit the amount that a patient can recover in such an action. It simply helps providers and patients have an open discussion after a poor outcome.

The proposed legislation also would also extend the life of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which is set to expire at the end of 2013, until the end of 2018.

The physician apology bill has been an example of strong physician grassroots advocacy in the past, and we're asking for your continued support. Last year alone, 319 people sent nearly 800 messages to their legislators asking for their support of such legislation.

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Please let your state representative know how important it is to pass SB 379.

Validating Your Specialty for the Medicaid Pay Increase

Certain Medicaid primary care specialties can now complete an attestation form to validate that their specialty is eligible for enhanced reimbursement. The Affordable Care Act mandates that designated specialties rendering specified primary care services be paid at the Medicare rate for 2013 and 2014.

While the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) previously reported on this initiative, we've received updated information on how physicians in the eligible specialties must attest.

Physicians should be aware that the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is now requiring a copy of BOTH your board certification and an attestation form, not one or the other. These latest instructions differ from those outlined by DPW.

Who is qualified for the enhanced reimbursement?

Physicians who are board certified in **family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics or boarded in the subspecialties of one of these three specialties, e.g. pediatric cardiology, adult cardiology, etc.** as granted by the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Osteopathic Association, or the American Board of Physician Specialties, qualify for the enhanced reimbursement.

Also eligible are primary care physicians who are not board certified, but who meet specific service utilization, e.g., 60 percent of their Medical Assistance (MA) claims are for evaluation and management (E&M) codes and vaccine administration services.

ATTENTION**Lehigh County Medical Society MEMBERS****Does your Physician Group have a Website?**

Contact the Lehigh County Medical Society and have your Website linked onto the Lehigh County Medical Society Website.

www.lcmedsoc.org

Call: 610-437-2288

How do I attest?

The instructions provided by DPW are as follows:

Board certified physicians must:

- Complete, sign, and submit a signed attestation form.
- Provide a copy of your current board certification in one of the above mentioned specialties or subspecialties.

If you are not board certified

- Complete, sign, and submit an attestation form annually in 2013 and 2014 attesting that you practice in one of the above mentioned specialties or subspecialties and that at least 60 percent of your MA claims are for E&M codes and vaccine administration services.

Do you need to update your enrollment file?

If you are not already enrolled as a physician with one of the above mentioned specialties or subspecialties, you must update your enrollment information to include a specialty of family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatric medicine. Changes may take 60 days or more to process.

How do I submit the required documents and what is the deadline?

Physicians must have submitted board certification and an attestation form to the MA Enrollment Unit by April 1, 2013, in order to be considered for retroactive claim adjustments for dates of service beginning Jan. 1, 2013. Eligible physicians are still able to attest after April 1, but the enhanced reimbursement to Medicare rates will not be retroactive.

Physicians submitting provider enrollment updates, board certification, and attestation forms must submit these documents one of the following ways:

- Electronic submission: Upload your board certification and attestation forms via the PROMISE provider portal's new upload feature. To upload documents, select the "Upload PDF" entry in the ePEAP menu of your provider profile, browse for your PDF file, and select the appropriate document description.

- Email: Ra-ProvApp@pa.gov (Indicate subject as "PCP")
Fax: (717) 265-8284

(Indicate "PCP" in fax cover sheet subject line)

- Mail: DPW/OMAP/BFFSP Attention: Provider Enrollment Unit/PCP PO Box 8045 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8045

PAMED has been asked by several group practices if there will be an option that will allow them to attest for all of their physicians on one form. DPW has stated that group attestation is not an option at this time.

What services qualify and how will I be paid?

DPW will apply the increases to the current fee schedule. The increase will apply to E&M procedure codes and vaccine administration codes to the extent covered by the state when furnished by a qualifying physician or under the personal supervision of a qualifying physician. DPW will be issuing another MA Bulletin with additional information to include the list of procedure codes subject to the increased rates and the rates themselves. Fees will increase to Medicare levels.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you are a Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) member and have additional questions, check out our FAQs. Members with specific questions may contact our Division of Practice Economics and Payer Relations at (800) 228-7823, ext. 2644.

Lehigh County Medical Society Welcomes the following New Members

Denise C. DiCicco, DO (AN)
4319 Westbury Dr,
Center Valley, PA 18034

Joseph J. Stirparo, MD (GS)
1240 S Cedar Crest Blvd, Ste 308,
Allentown PA 18103

Amit Kumar, (Student)
98 Valley Park S.,
Bethlehem PA 18018

Mark Your Calendar! Lehigh County Medical Society 2013 Symposium Anatomy of the Medical Malpractice Lawsuit Saturday, October 12, 2013

Topics covered, include:

- Tort reform and medical malpractice trends
- ACA/Evolving healthcare environment
 - Deposition preparation
- Electronic medical records
 - Mock deposition

This event will be held at: Lehigh Valley Hospital
Campus Main Auditorium
Cedar Crest & I-78, Allentown, PA
Registration and Continental Breakfast 7 AM
Symposium 8 AM

For more information, visit: www.lcmedsoc.org

NOTE

Members of the
Lehigh County Medical Society can now view the
membership roster (Physician Directory) at our
website: www.lcmedsoc.org or request a Member-
ship Roster by calling the Lehigh County Medical
Society at: 610-437-2288.

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The vision of the Lehigh County Medical Society is to be a relevant and influential leader in the Pennsylvania Medical Society; to unite our physicians and to empower them to deliver compassionate, ethical and evidence based healthcare of the highest quality and value to our community.

The Lehigh County Medical Society will accomplish its mission and its vision by the following:

Legislative Advocacy within our State Medical Society and our Government
Community Education within the Public Health Arena
Member Education, Collaborative Relationships and Collegiality
Service Activities for our members and our community

SUPPORTING ADVERTISERS

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