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January | 2012

PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

NEWS

When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare, think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

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President Renee' Montgomery's Remarks at PCMS Annual Meeting

"I am honored to be among the distinguished group of my peers elected to this office.

Dr. (Ashley) Deed was the first woman to lead this organization. She has led with grace and dignity through uncharted waters. In fact, much of the practice

Reneé Montgomery, MD,
 President, 2012 PCMS
 Board of Directors



of medicine today could be considered uncharted.

Whether one is a physician in private clinical practice or a physician in academia, medicine is experiencing a tsunami of change and challenge.

How we meet these challenges will help to define the future of medicine for those we serve. It behooves each of us to keep in mind the purpose of the Pulaski County Medical Society which reads as follows:

The purpose of this Society shall be to promote and preserve the highest standards of medical care and medical ethics; to conserve and protect the public health of the community; and to foster and guard the professional interests of its members."

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2012 Calendar of Meetings & Events

(PCMS Board of Directors will meet every other month.)

- March 20** PCMS Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m., Doctors Bldg.
- May 15** PCMS Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m., Doctors Bldg.
- June & July** No scheduled meetings.
- August 21** PCMS Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m., Doctors Bldg.
- October 16** PCMS Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m., Doctors Bldg.
- November** Annual Meeting
Capital Hotel
Date: TBD



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Welcome New Physicians

Roopa Samant, MD

Arthur Clemente, MD

Angela Driskill, MD

Ryan B. Friedman, MD

Cathleen Khandelwal, MD

Victor Mandoff, MD

Samuel Register, III

Russell Tarr, MD

EHR Incentive Program update

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published a data file containing de-identified information on eligible professionals (EPs) and hospitals (EHs) who have attested to the Meaningful Use Program (MU) including physician specialty, state, and vendor type. The dataset can be downloaded for free. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also recently published updated MU registration and attestation data. Attestations include 15,255 Medicare EPs and 14,089 Medicaid EPs. Physicians make up the vast majority of both groups, but overall participation remains low. The MU 2011 reporting period for physicians ended on Dec. 31. Physicians interested in applying for incentives for 2011 have until Feb. 29 to register and attest at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>. Feb. 29 is also the last day EPs have to submit claims for allowed charges incurred in 2011.

AMA helps Federation address HIPAA Version 5010 issues

The AMA's Practice Management Center assisted the Harris County Medical Society in addressing issues surrounding the transition and implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Version 5010. In learning of physician complaints about claims rejections in particular, the AMA worked with the Federation, as well as the clearinghouse community, to attend to this issue.

The AMA Practice Management Center's HIPAA complaint form, which can be accessed at ama-assn.org/go/clickandcomplain, makes it easy for physician practices to inform the AMA and HHS about health insurers and other payers that are out of compliance with the HIPAA electronic transaction and code set standards

Hospital hiring of physicians picks up steam

Health systems also are looking at how to hold onto their existing doctors as competition for their services heats up.

The only reason a physician wouldn't be able to find a hospital job, it appears, is because he or she isn't looking for one.

Hospitals increased their physician hiring in 2011, and hospital employment of doctors shows no signs of slowing in 2012, with doctor hiring becoming a major strategy for hospitals getting ready for health system reform. Meanwhile, physicians already on staff may find hospitals providing financial and other incentives to keep them on board.

"We have a work force shortage," said Alan Kaplan, MD, vice president with Iowa Health System and

president of Iowa Health Physicians and Clinics, based in Des Moines. "We would look at any physician seeking employment. I'm not saying we would want to employ all specialties, but we would look at them."

Three-quarters of health care organizations surveyed by Sullivan, Cotter and Associates said they increased physician staffing levels in 2011, adding an average of 12 specialists and nine primary care physicians. Three-quarters said they planned to hire more physicians and midlevel practitioners in 2012, according to the survey, released Jan. 10.

Excerpted from story by VICTORIA STAGG ELLIOTT, amednews staff. Posted Jan. 30, 2012

“As physicians, we have so many
unknowns coming our way...

One thing I am certain about
is my malpractice protection.”

Medicine is feeling the effects of regulatory and legislative changes,
increasing risk, and profitability demands—all contributing to
uncertainty and lack of control.

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