



DENVER MEDICAL BULLETIN

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Discussions in Washington

By Curtis L. Hagedorn, MD, President

In mid-February, I had the honor of accompanying the Colorado contingent on a visit to Washington, DC, for the American Medical Association National Advocacy Conference. The trip was filled with opportunities to learn and to educate. We had the opportunity to learn directly from our Congresspeople. We met with House Representatives Polis, Coffman, Perlmutter, and DeGette. We spent time with Senators Udall and Bennett. We learned about some of the nuances of politics and were educated about many of the “roadblocks” which Congress encounters during their efforts to enact meaningful changes. We also had the opportunity to educate our Congresspeople. Our main talking points centered on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), prescription drug abuse, and gun violence.

We discussed different aspects of the ACA and reminded our elected officials that Colorado is a national leader in design and implementation of the health insurance exchange. We pointed out the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) pilot programs underway in Colorado, and how our Medicaid Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) demonstrated a \$30 million savings in one year by focusing on things such as decreasing emergency room utilization and hospital readmissions, and we of

course reminded them about the perpetual strain of the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and the potential disastrous consequences of the looming sequester. All of the Colorado Congresspeople we met with understand that the flawed SGR must be fixed. They all seemed to understand the catastrophic effect implementation of a 30% cut in Medicare/Tricare reimbursements would have on America’s seniors and military service people. Our Congresspeople seemed sincerely hopeful that we will have a long-term fix to the SGR during THIS congressional session!

They were not so hopeful, however, about avoiding the sequester. At the time of writing this article, the sense on the hill is that the sequester will be allowed to occur, and the 2% cut in Medicare reimbursements and a 7% cut in military spending among other cuts will be implemented March 1st. Most do believe that these cuts will only be in place for about a month, however, at which time Congress will have another opportunity to “fix” this sequester; basically, a political game of

chicken.

We discussed our nation’s prescription drug abuse problem and how Colorado is somewhat in the spotlight, as we are number 2 in the nation regarding this problem. Our Congresspeople were pleased to hear that



John Bender, MD, CMS President-elect; Curtis Hagedorn, MD, DMS President; Jan Kief, MD, CMS President; and Colorado Representative Mike Coffman

Learn What the All Payer Claims Database Means for You! . . .Page 3

Colorado physicians are organizing study into the problem and we hope to design practical solutions which will decrease the rampant abuse of these agents while at the same time make sure our patients get the pain control that they need and deserve.

We had thoughtful and meaningful discussion about gun violence in our country. We voiced our support of President Obama's decision to lift the 17 year NRA led effective ban on Center for Disease Control (CDC) study of gun violence in our society. As physicians, we practice evidence-based medicine, and in looking for solutions to gun violence, we need data. We need to understand the problem as fully as possible in order to truly come up with proper treatments and hopefully a cure. Just as the CDC considers motor vehicle safety a top priority, has studied this public health problem thoroughly, has developed practical solutions, and as a result fatalities from motor vehicle accidents in our country have decreased dramatically, we hope gun violence can be studied in a similar way and we can similarly dramatically decrease the fatalities in the United States from gun violence. We told our Congresspeople about Denver Medical Society's gun violence task force led by Naomi Fieman, MD, and voiced our support of Governor Hickenlooper's decision to double the number of mental health facilities available 24/7 for Coloradans in need of such services. We encouraged them to support common sense measures which would provide an increase in public awareness of gun safety, i.e. how to store the weapon, how to handle the weapon. We provided our Congresspeople with Colorado Medical Society (CMS) members' survey results regarding gun violence, in which the majority of CMS members support a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition.

The conference lecture program included topics from Graduate Medical Education financing to health-care delivery and payment reform. Question/answer sessions at the end of each talk provided a venue for valuable interaction with the speakers. We heard informative and exciting talks from insiders like Chuck Todd

(Chief White House correspondent for NBC), and Kathleen Sebelius (Secretary of US Department of Health and Human Services).

Our DC trip solidified in our minds the immense importance of physician engagement at the level of policy and politics. Legislators need (and desperately want) our help in providing information and recommendations regarding policy decisions. Physicians are considered a trusted ally and extremely valuable source of information by our elected officials. If we want to see legislation crafted which is in the best interest of our patients and our ability to practice medicine, we need to be engaged in the political process. Simply providing excellent care to that patient sitting in front of you is no longer adequate for the practice of medicine to be sustainable in this country. Please, no heads in sand, lend a hand.



Curtis Hagedorn, MD; Christie Reimer, MD, Larimer County Medical Society President; Kevin Fitzgerald, MD, Mesa County Medical Society President; John Bender, MD, CMS President-elect; and Colorado Senator Michael Bennet

I want to thank the entire Colorado contingent, especially Alfred Gilchrist and Chris McGowne of Colorado Medical Society, for their superb leadership. Thanks to Dr. Jan Kief, Dr. John Bender, Dr. Floyd Rusak, Andrea Chase, Dr. Christie Reimer, Dr. Frank Dumont, Kathy Lindquist-Kleissler, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Dr. Bronwen Magraw, Donna Foss, and Dr. Dennis Waite.

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The Denver Medical Society, in conjunction with the Arapahoe-Douglas-Elbert, Aurora-Adams County, and Clear Creek Valley Medical Societies, proudly presents

Your Data Is Showing. . .

The Colorado All Payer Claims Database (APCD) was created by legislation in 2010. Last fall it began to publish aggregate data profiling utilization and cost patterns across the state based on 3 years of data on over 2 million Coloradoans. The goal is to provide transparent data on health care costs and provider performance to aid patients and purchasers of health care to make informed choices.



What will this mean to you and your practice?

Jonathan Mathieu, PhD, Director of Data and Research for CIVHC (Center for Improving Value in Health Care) will update you on APCD efforts to develop provider performance metrics and plans for future data releases.

Thursday, April 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Cool River Cafe, 8000 E. Belview Ave., Greenwood Village

All physicians are invited to attend this free event, but your RSVP is required.

RSVP to info@denvermedsociety.org by April 8th.

CME and Copic ERS points pending



MEDICAL SPANISH and CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Friday, April 19 - Monday, April 22, 2013

Denver Medical Society, 1850 Williams Street, Denver

45 CME credits through AAFP or AANP, or
43 CMEs through the AMA, or
43 credits through ACEP.

The cost of the class is \$499 for DMS members, \$599 for non-members, including text book. Optional costs: Ten audio CDs corresponding to Beginner Level or Intermediate/Advance Level for \$55, or a Flash Drive covering both levels for \$75.

To register, go to <http://medspanish.org> and click on the registration tab at the top.

If you have any questions, please call Tamara Rios, PhD, (520) 907-3318, or email convesp@aol.com for additional information.

Legislative Night 2013

DMS physicians joined colleagues from across the metro area to establish and cement relationships with their State senators and representatives.



Dr. Lee Morgan and Rep. Leroy Garcia



Dr. David Jackson, Rep. Paul Rosenthal, Dr. Aaron Burrows and Dr. Herb Jacobs

Rep. Jeanne Labuda and Dr. Usha Varma



Drs. Karen Davidson and Johnny Johnson



Dr. Michael Moore and Rep. Justin Everett



Drs. Chris Ott, Deb Parsons and Lucy Loomis



Dr. Patricia VanDevander, Rep. Leroy Garcia, Rep. Joann Ginal, and Dr. Curtis Hagedorn



Drs. Aris Sophocles, Mark Laitos and Elizabeth Kincannon

Ask the Health Plan Medical Director



Jane Kano, MD, poses a question for the panel of health plan medical directors.

Bill Mandell, DO, United Health Plans; Mark Laitos, MD, Cigna; Elizabeth Kraft, MD, Anthem; Kevin Fitzgerald, MD, Rocky Mountain Health Plans



Physicians recently got answers from health plan medical directors at Cool River Cafe in a meeting presented by metro area medical societies. A packed room generated lots of questions and conversation.

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

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DINNER/SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE DOCTORS COMPANY

Prescription Drug Abuse—An Epidemic

Target Audience: Physicians of all specialties

Objectives: At the conclusion of this program, you will be able to:

- Recognize the scale and scope of prescription drug abuse in the U.S.
- Describe risk factors that may lead to prescription drug abuse
- Outline a comprehensive pain examination and plan
- Develop strategies to educate patients concerning management of pain

Presenters: Laura Dixon, BS, JD, RN, CPHRM
 Patient Safety Risk Management Account Executive
 Richard Cahill, JD, Associate General Counsel
 Vice President, The Doctors Company

Location and Time: **Wednesday, March 20, 2013**
Strings Restaurant, 1700 Humboldt St., Denver 80218
 Dinner: 6:00 PM / Seminar: 6:30 PM—8:00 PM

*The Doctors Company is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. The Doctors Company designates this education activity for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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Assembly Required: A User-Friendly Blueprint for Practice Transformation



The Colorado Medical Society invites you to attend its free Spring Conference, May 3-5, 2013, at the Sonnenalp in Vail, Colo. Attendees of the conference will learn what they need to do to improve the care experience and provide greater value for the premium dollar through an inter-connected compilation of hands-on practice transformation sessions.

Topics will include:

Practice Transformation and Workflow Redesign—five speakers, including John Bender, MD, CMS President-elect

Team-Based Approach to Care—the culture of collaboration, leadership, and teamwork

Metrics Reports and Population Management—three speakers on how reports can work for you

Health Information Exchange—what CORHIO will do for physicians at the point of care

Access for All—how doctors can lead the way for sustainable, expanded Medicaid in Colorado

The link for the complete agenda and registration form is www.cms.org/about-cms/spring-conference.

March 19 Webinar: Take the First Step Down the ICD-Pathway

There is a pathway through the ICD-10 maze and it begins by engaging with physicians and staff to build an awareness of what ICD-10 is. If you haven't begun planning you must join us on Tuesday March 19th at noon and take the first step down the path towards a successful transition!

The Colorado ICD-10 Training Coalition will bring you programming and resources throughout the year that will build on the steps down the path. We are not the first to transition to ICD-10. . .In fact we are the last. The words of wisdom from the other countries that have gone before us—"start early".

This one-hour lunchtime webinar, led by Colorado experts, will help you gain a better understanding of ICD-10 including:

- The history and purpose
- The coding structure and conventions

- How ICD-10 differs from ICD-9 by examples and comparisons
- The documentation requirements and tips on how to talk to physicians about ICD-10
- Learn about resources and tools that are available

The registration link is <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=370i6cgn35ct>.

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Position wanted - Former Lib. Coordinator of the Denver Medical Library seeking admin. or clerical opportunity in healthcare related setting. Minor clinical duties welcome. Extensive medical background as PA, E.R. Tech. Full or part time. Prefer Denver metro. Call Doug Stackhouse at 303-432-2896, or email stackhde@aol.com.



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Schmidt Plastic Surgery

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If your lease is expiring in the next 12 – 18 months, allow us to show you how we can help you capitalize on your next lease or purchase.

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