

THE Bulletin

MARCH 2013 Volume 90, Number 3

Town Hall Recap
House of Delegates Resolutions
Do Electronics Make Life Easier?
It's a Small World
The Importance of Silence
Commit to Fit Update



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THE Bulletin

Read by 96% of GCMS members.

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Our Vision

That the Genesee County Medical Society maintain its position as the premier medical society by advocating on behalf of its physician members and patients.

Our Mission

The mission of the Genesee County Medical Society is leadership, advocacy, education, and service on behalf of its members and their patients.

PLEASE NOTE

The GCMS Nominating Committee seeks input from members for nominations for the GCMS Presidential Citation for Lifetime Community Service. The Committee would like to be made aware of candidates for consideration.

THE BULLETIN

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IT'S A SMALL WORLD, BUT SOMETIMES, THAT'S A GOOD THING...

This month's article is a little less focused on business and politics. I need a short break from the ACA implementation, health exchanges, Medicaid expansion, and BCBSM mutualization stuff for a while. Though all of these issues require our focus and efforts, including the recurrent attempt by those in our state to inappropriately expand their scope of practice, I wanted to inform each of you about what will hopefully develop into and unprecedented opportunity to work with our colleagues in the press (yes, I consider them to be colleagues).

Whether newspaper, radio, TV, Internet, Facebook or Twitter, the media continues to be an outstanding resource for organized medicine as one method to reach out to our community and patients. I would argue these opportunities are amplified in Genesee County. Health statistics clearly show areas in need of dramatic improvement and I believe many of our citizens/patients are hungry for information. Whether it's the short and sweet summary on the Commit to Fit Campaign, teen pregnancy/STD prevention, smoking/alcohol cessation, obesity facts and figures and, yes, the tough discussion of gun safety (especially in Flint), our medical society and its members have the facts and knowledge and expertise to share. What better way than partnering with The Flint Journal and MLive with hopes of providing timely and useful medical information for our community? So how did this opportunity present itself?

Last month Pete and I were invited to attend a meeting with a group of MLive reporters at The Flint Journal Building (which has been renovated and is absolutely beautiful). Believe or not, the invitation came from Bernie Eng, *The Journal's* newly appointed Community Engagement Specialist. Now Bernie's name might not ring a bell with you, but this is the same



Ray Rudoni, MD

Bernie Eng who I went to school with at St. Clement High School in Centerline, Michigan. After graduating in 1984, we simply went our separate ways. Yes, it's a small world and needless to say the first 10 minutes of the meeting were spent with warm greetings and a quick summary of the last 30 years! One of the best meetings I have been to in a long time.

Bernie and health reporters, Dana DeFever and Sarah Schuch, joined us Monday, February 18, for what proved to be a successful brainstorming session, which we hope will develop into an ongoing community endeavor with *The*

Journal and GCMS. They will look at community health and safety issues and work with our county society exec Peter Levine and GCMS in order to match the right doctor with the right expertise. We also talked about further partnering with MLive and *The Journal* on a medical topic of the week (or some regularly scheduled interval). It could be a column or a small focused bulletin with facts and pertinent information for all readers to enjoy. So, expect a call because we will need your assistance with an endless list of topics. We hope the community will embrace this opportunity as an adjunct to healthy and safe behaviors, which are solidified by their physicians. For those without doctors or an office to turn to, we hope this outreach idea might provide timely information and help them understand the challenges we all face, especially in Genesee County.

Pete has taken the first step and suggested *The Journal* consider reviewing and publishing the "The 14 Things You Need to Know to Reduce Illness and Death," a great GCMS document that contains pertinent health information for their readers and our community.

We look forward to partnering with our colleagues in the media and we hope you will participate when called upon to do so.

Save the Date!

2013 Hospice Teleconference

***“Improving Care for Veterans Facing Illness and
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When: April 17, 2013

Time: 8:00am registration
8:30am-12:30pm Program
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***Please look for your FORMAL invitation with registration
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THE SOUND OF SILENCE IS A RARE COMMODITY

A nice relaxing meal in a restaurant can be ruined by clouds of smoke generated by a nearby tobacco addict that fouls the air you breathe. However, there is another type of environmental pollution that can be more subtle and insidious, and can also threaten your health and comfort; the noise level in that same restaurant.

The modern world is a noisy place and getting more so all of the time. Noise pollution, also called environmental noise, is defined as human-created sound that is harmful to health or welfare. The most common noxious noise generators are transportation vehicles and construction equipment in urban areas. But sound levels that are harmful to our ears and our well-being are ubiquitous. Stores and restaurants blasting music from overhead speakers, crowd noise in sports stadiums and arenas, and even appliances and tools we use in and around our homes and offices all contribute to noise pollution. The sound volume in movie theaters can sometimes be deafening.

The word noise is derived from the Latin word for seasickness: nausea. Noise intensity is measured in decibel units. Each 10 decibel increase is perceived as a doubling of loudness. For example, 30 decibels is 10 times more intense than 20 decibels and sounds twice as loud to the human ear. At a distance of 2,000 feet, the noise of a jet take-off reaches about 110 decibels, about the same as a car horn from three feet away. Subjected to 45 decibels of sound, the average person cannot sleep. At 120 decibels,



Daniel Ryan, MD

one feels ear pain, but damage actually starts to occur at about 85 decibels. The duration of the exposure, along with the intensity, is also a factor affecting tissue damage.

Apart from hearing loss, noise pollution can interfere with sleep patterns and has been linked to hypertension, ulcers, cardiovascular disease, and mental illness. Aging has been found to be an insignificant cause of hearing loss. It is more likely caused by chronic exposure to moderately high levels of environmental noise. Imagine the damage a whole generation of users of portable music

players is doing to their precious sense of hearing. At least we can be thankful that those giant boom boxes have faded from the scene.

The U.S. Noise Control Act of 1972 empowered the Environmental Protection Agency to set noise emission standards for transportation and construction equipment and regulate aircraft noise. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over noise levels in the workplace. But many types of noise pollution cannot be practically regulated by the government. Individuals must take steps to protect their hearing and avoid situations where excessive noise is a problem. We should complain to business owners who disregard the right to a reasonably quiet environment.

Second-hand noise can be just as annoying as second-hand smoke and both should be a concern to physicians.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
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GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO
DIRECTOR

**2012 MEDICAL RECORDS ACCESS ACT FEES
(In Accordance with the Consumer Price Index)**

Subsection 1 of Section 9 of Public Act 47 of 2004 (MCL § 333.26269), states the following:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if a patient or his or her authorized representative makes a request for a copy of all or part of his or her medical record under section 5, the health care provider, health facility, or medical records company to which the request is directed may charge the patient or his or her authorized representative a fee that is not more than the following amounts:

- (a) An initial fee of \$20.00 per request for a copy of the record.
- (b) Paper copies as follows:
 - (i) One dollar per page for the first 20 pages.
 - (ii) Fifty cents per page for pages 21 through 50.
 - (iii) Twenty cents for pages 51 and over.


NOTE: A 'patient', as defined by this rule, shall not be charged an initial fee [see (1) (a) above] for his or her medical record. (333.26269(5)). However, a patient can be charged the other permitted fees for his or her medical record.

Subsection 6 of Section 9 of Public Act 47 of 2004 (MCL § 333.26269), states the following:

(6) Beginning 2 years after the effective date of this act, the department of community health shall adjust on an annual basis the fees prescribed by subsection (1) by an amount determined by the state treasurer to reflect the cumulative annual percentage change in the Detroit consumer price index.

Pursuant to the above requirements, I, Olga Dazzo, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health recognize the State Treasurer's certification of the cumulative annual percentage increase in the Detroit Consumer Price Index for the 2011 calendar year of 3.3%. The maximum charges are as follows:

Year	Initial Fee (333.26269(1)(a))	Per page for the first 20 pages (333.26269(1)(b)(i))	Per page from paged 21-50 (333.26269(1)(b)(ii))	Per page for pages 51+ (333.26269(1)(b)(iii))
CY 2010	\$21.95	\$1.09	\$0.55	\$0.23
CY 2011	\$22.13	\$1.10	\$0.55	\$0.23
CY 2012	\$22.86	\$1.14	\$.57	\$0.23


Olga Dazzo, Director

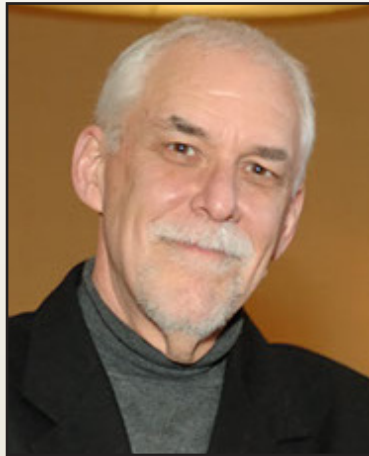
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For questions concerning medical records access act fees, please contact Mary Greco, Legal Affairs Specialist at (517) 373-3772 or grecom@michigan.gov.

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GROTESQUE CONTRADICTIONS

On February 12, John Alleman died. Who cares? In some ways this gentleman is a poster child for what needs to change in Genesee County. Mr. Alleman was the “unofficial” spokesman for the Heart Attack Grill, a Las Vegas restaurant which serves hamburgers with such names as The Single Bypass, The Double Bypass, The Triple Bypass and the Quadruple Bypass. The Quadruple Bypass is 3 lbs. of meat and is the Guinness World’s Record’s “world’s most calorific burger” at 9,982 calories. The restaurant also features high calorie sides such as Flat Liner Fries, which are deep fried in lard. The owner of this place is Jon Basso. He refers to himself as a doctor, but he is not. He is a former Jenny Craig franchise owner who claims that the Heart Attack Grill serves as his “soapbox.” It is hard to understand what his soapbox might be, but he appears to claim that, by serving such crazy foods and by having two spokespersons die within a couple of years of each other, he is doing more good than he could through the Jenny Craig franchise. Basso calls his waitresses nurses and orders are called prescriptions. Customers wear hospital gowns and are called patients. If you weigh >350 lbs. you eat for free. This Mr. Alleman, who passed away, was of course a sad creature. He was a night watchman for a construction site and ate in The Heart Attack Grill every day for the past year and a half. He would stay for up to six hours each day, according to ABC News.



Peter Levine, MPH

Last year a man suffered a heart attack while eating a Triple Bypass Burger (which is estimated to have 6,000 calories). In April of 2012 a woman had sudden symptoms and was rushed to the hospital. A year earlier, the 575 lb. spokesman for the restaurant died at age 29.

Crazy!

Obviously this is not in tune with GCMS and the Greater Flint Health Coalition’s efforts to create a healthier community. Some of the things that we see people eat around here are similarly grotesque. I have seen people order chili-cheese fries with gravy. I was in a restaurant recently and saw a fellow who ate four coney dogs, a huge plate of fries with cheese, a giant milkshake and a banana split. In general it is really time for us to try harder. It takes relatively small behavior changes to create much healthier bodies and it is really fun to experience the changes.

In an outcomes-based world, just simply having patients eliminate high-fructose corn syrup, salt, refined sugar, wheat and some of the bad fats can lead to stunning changes. More often, smaller amounts and getting a little bit of exercise can change a person’s life. It is hard to imagine that, in this day-and-age, a Heart Attack Grill could exist. We don’t allow Russian roulette parlors. We don’t allow suicide bars. We don’t allow HIV cafes. It would seem that a place like the Heart Attack Grill is a true public health threat that is beyond the pale.

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MSMS hosted a reception for new legislators in late February. The Genesee County Medical Society delegation Drs. Ray Rudoni, Venkat Rao and Pino Colone, and Brenda Voakes of MMGMA and Pete Levine met for an extended period with Rep. Jim Ananich during the reception and also met with legislative leaders from other districts. GCMS members wishing to participate in this type of process at the local level are welcome to attend the GCMS Legislative Liaison Committee. Please contact Pete Levine to be added to the meeting notice list at plevine@gcms.org.

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TOWN HALL HELD ON MAJOR CHANGES IN MEDICAL POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

On February 7, a general membership meeting was held on “Major Changes in Medical Political Environment.” Colin Ford of the Michigan State Medical Society described the massive changes coming in the medical political environment due to federal and state legislative changes. He described the changes in federal health insurance law and how it would affect local physicians. He also explained the tort reform legislation that passed during the last legislative session which should help physicians in terms of premium reduction for malpractice insurance. He also described the defeat of scope-of-practice bills which would have expanded allied health professionals’ scope of practice into the realm of physicians. Finally, Mr. Ford described the changes in the Michigan Supreme Court which are very positive for the Medical Liability Environment in Michigan. A spirited question-and-answer period followed.

Nearly 100 people attended despite the risk of a major snowstorm, including medical students and residents. The Nominating Committee for 2013 was elected. It includes: Drs. Zainudin, P. Naik, Forstall and VanDuyne, from the membership-at-large and Drs. F. Khan and Venu Vadlamudi from the Board of Directors.







GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER BUSINESS MEETING

February 7, 2013

Minutes

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Raymond Rudoni, MD, President in the Flint Golf Club dining room.

II. Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Rudoni welcome everyone to the Town Hall Meeting on Massive Changes in the Medical Political Environment. He also welcome distinguished guests, including Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, Representative Pam Faris, Representative Woodrow Stanley, Colin Ford, Director of Government Relations at MSMS and several MSU medical students and residents. He also introduced the sponsor for the evening, The Doctors Company, and invited Chuck Harris to the podium to speak about The Doctors Company. Dr. Rudoni also noted that the Emergency Medical Centre of Flint was present, which is a nonprofit urgent care, endorsed by GCMS. PPI Communications, which is also known as Physicians' Answering Service, was also present. This answering service is a nonprofit service which is also endorsed by GCMS. A display table was also introduced for the MSU medical students' First Annual Flintstone Challenge 5K Run/Walk and the St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center, which is an exciting charity which the GCMS Board wanted brought to everyone's attention because they are producing great products for the medical community and doing great charitable work in the Flint area. Finally the Commit to Fit! table was introduced, noting that Nick Bendall has been hired by GCMS with a grant from the Greater Flint Health Coalition to promote better outcomes to patients of member physicians.

III. Review of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Motion: That the minutes of the September 6, 2012 Dinner Business Meeting, the September 25, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting, the October 23, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting, and the November 27, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting be approved as published in The Bulletin. The Motion Carried.

IV. Nominating Committee Election:

Motion: That Drs. S. Zainuddin, P. Naik, G. Forstall, F. VanDuyne and M. Agabigum be nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee representing the members-at-large. The Motion Carried.

Motion: That Drs. V. Vadlamudi and F. Khan be elected to the Nominating Committee representing the GCMS Board. The Motion Carried.

V. Announcements:

A) MSMS House of Delegates

Dr. Rudoni announced that the MSMS House of Delegates would take place April 26-28, 2013 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

B) Presidential Citation Award

Dr. Rudoni asked the membership, if they have ideas for candidates for the MSMS Presidential Citation Award, to let Pete Levine know for referral to the Nominating Committee.



C) IMG Section – Issues

Dr. Ahmed noted that three candidates from Genesee County are interested in pursuing the AMA IMG Section Governing Council slots which are available. Those three individuals are Drs. Rima Jibaly, Mona Hardas, and Shafi Ahmed.

Motion: That Drs. Rima Jibaly, Mona Hardas, and Shafi Ahmed be endorsed in their campaign for slots on the AMA IMG Governing Council. The Motion Carried.

VI. Introduction of Speaker:

Dr. Rudoni introduced Mr. Colin Ford who has been with the Michigan State Medical Society since 1998. He received his bachelor's degree in political theory from James Madison College at Michigan State University. He is currently the Senior Director of State and Federal Government Relations at the Michigan State Medical Society. His areas of expertise include Medicaid, insurance regulation, certificate of need, physician licensing, and scope of practice.

Mr. Ford then provided a presentation on massive changes in the medical political environment.

VII. Next Meeting:

The next general membership meeting will take place on May 2, 2013.

VIII. Adjournment:

Dr. Rudoni thanked Pete Levine for putting together a productive meeting. No further business appearing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

GCMS MEETINGS

– MARCH 2013 –

3/4 – 8 a.m. Legislative Liaison Committee @ GCMS

3/6 – 7:30 a.m. Bulletin Committee @ GCMS

3/18 – 12 noon Membership Committee @ GCMS

3/26 – 5:15 p.m. Finance Committee @ GCMS

3/26 – 6 p.m. GCMS Board of Directors @ GCMS

**3/27 – 12:30 p.m. Community & Environmental
Health Committee @ GCMS**

3/28 – 8 a.m. Practice Managers @ GCMS

Legislative Liaison Meets with Legislators

On February 4, the Legislative Liaison Committee met with Tim Sneller of Representative Smiley's office; Dayne Walling, Mayor of the City of Flint; Representative Pam Faris and Representative James Ananich. The committee heard a synopsis of the election which focused on the Supreme Court races which resulted in a rule of law majority. This was followed by the resignation of Justice Hathaway due to a bank fraud conviction. This will create a super-majority of rule of law justices which is good for physicians.

The legislators recounted their perceptions of the election and their committee assignments.

Josh Richmond and Steve Japinga of the Michigan State Medical Society reviewed the MSMS position regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan mutualization. Advanced practice nursing and nurse anesthetist scope of practice legislation were killed during the last session of the legislature. MSMS is working with the nursing associations on a compromise which would ideally be positive to both sides.

The committee expressed great concerns about access issues in the community. Peter Levine reviewed the spirit of Representative James Ananich's bill which would provide incentives to physicians to stay in this community.

The American Medical Association is tracking a patient right-to-know bill which will label doctors by the type of doctor that they are; for instance, doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, doctor of physical therapy, doctor of nursing, etc. This is a direct reflection of a resolution brought 2-3 years ago from Genesee County to the MSMS House of Delegates and from MSMS to the AMA.

The next meeting of the committee will take place on March 4.

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YOUR \$\$\$ AT WORK

- S** GCMS held a town hall meeting on the major changes occurring in the medical political environment, featuring Colin Ford of the Michigan State Medical Society.
- S** GCMS held practice manager sessions revolving around meetings with McLaren PHO and Genesys PHO.
- S** GCMS instituted a peer review process relating to two complaints against members.
- S** GCMS continued its fitness advocacy and outcomes improvement advocacy on behalf of its members via the “Commit to Fit” program.
- S** GCMS held a Legislative Liaison Committee meeting with this district’s legislators on issues ranging from upcoming tort reform legislation, residency programs slot expansion, scope creep and Blue Cross mutualization.
- S** GCMS submitted four resolutions to the MSMS House of Delegates.
- S** GCMS leadership met with The Flint Journal regarding information of import to the public at large.



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RESOLUTIONS

TITLE: RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING ALL COUNTIES TO HOLD REGULAR LEGISLATIVE LIAISON MEETINGS

Introduced by: Cathy O. Blight, M.D., for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Cathy O. Blight, M.D.

House Action:

Whereas, legislative liaison activity (communication between county and state medical society members with elected officials), is one of the most important elements of county and state medical society activity, and

Whereas, those counties which hold legislative liaison meetings on a regular basis have proven to be effective getting organized medicine's message across to elected officials, and

Whereas, the performance of regular legislative liaison related meetings with State and Federal elected officials from that county would be of obvious benefit to the profession of medicine, and

Whereas, there are counties which would be willing to help develop the legislative liaison activities in counties which are not currently doing so, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS and the current counties performing legislative liaison related activities encourage and use all available methods to encourage all county medical societies in the State of Michigan to hold regular legislative liaison related meetings with their State and Federal elected officials, and be it further

RESOLVED: That county and state medical societies work together to provide reasonable educational support for those counties endeavoring to create legislative liaison procedures.

TITLE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF GROUP MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Introduced by: Raymond Rudoni, M.D., for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Paul Dake, M.D.

Whereas, physicians are required to perform more and more tasks due to regulations and third-party payer criteria for payment, and

Whereas, physicians will increasingly be required to provide evidence of improved outcomes, and

Whereas, patient satisfaction data will become increasingly important, and

Whereas, performing counseling and advice again and again to patients who are not necessarily open to the concept of behavior change, and

Whereas, research shows that providing group setting opportunities for patients to attend for the purpose of learning how to deal with chronic disease are productive, and

Whereas, third-party payers, POs, managed care entities, and purchasers are often willing to reward physicians for pursuit of improved outcomes, improved patient satisfaction, and improved physician satisfaction by performing group medical appointments for people with similar diagnoses, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS communicate to its members the importance of considering new ways of performing their clinical tasks, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS work within the federation of medicine at the AMA, state and county levels to encourage new patterns of practice where possible, including the performance of group medical appointments for the myriad of diagnoses which might benefit from it, including chronic diseases, pain and pregnancy.

TITLE: RECOGNITION OF HAPTENATION AND HYPERSENSITIVITY DISORDERS, THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFICATION

Introduced by: Gerald Natzke, D.O. and Qazi Azher, M.D., for the Genesee County Delegation

House Action:

Whereas, chemical and/or metal sensitization (e.g. due to cosmetics, medications, and fumes) is poorly understood and grossly under-recognized, and

Whereas, chemical and/or metal sensitivity is accepted as a federal disability per the Americans with Disabilities Act, and

Whereas, chemical sensitivity is estimated to be found in (according to the American Public Health Association) 12-16% of the US population which is equivalent to approximately 37-50 million people, and

Whereas, sensitization can create symptoms or disease in any/or multiple organ systems and is preceded by toxic chemical or metal exposure, and

Whereas, chemical sensitivity is often characterized by individuals who have developed intolerance to pharmaceutical products in their recommended doses, and

Whereas, haptentation is a known and well documented physiologic process occurring in humans, creating symptoms and disease; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS use its communication vehicles to make physicians aware of the process of haptentation and sensitization and their multiple ramifications, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS use its communication vehicles to help physicians recognize that one can teach patients methods to avoid exposure to the haptens, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS use its communication vehicles to help physicians include chemical sensitivity in the differential diagnosis, take a history focused on exposures to toxins and symptoms related to known toxins and testing, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS disseminate information via its communication vehicles on haptentation in Michigan Medicine and at the Annual Scientific Meeting, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS request that the AMA use its communication vehicles to make physicians nationally aware of the process of haptentation and sensitization and their multiple ramifications, as well as to help physicians teach patients methods to avoid exposure to the haptens, and to help physicians include chemical sensitivity in the differential diagnosis, take a history focused on exposures to toxins and symptoms related to known toxins and testing.

TITLE: NEW HASSLES REGARDING PRESCRIBING SYMPATHOMIMETIC MEDICATIONS

Author: Shafi Ahmed, MD

Introduced By: Shafi Ahmed, MD on behalf of the GCMS Delegation

Whereas: a memo has been produced by the Michigan Pharmacists Association and by Pharmacy Services Inc. entitled "Prescribing Sympathomimetic Medications Ensure Your Pharmacy is Compliant and Avoid Unnecessary Audit Recoupments" dated 1/31/13 and

Whereas: this document advises pharmacies to require that a prescription must indicate on the prescription order, in the physician's own handwriting, the purpose for which the drug is being prescribed by rule of the Michigan Board of Pharmacy, and

Whereas: this rule has caused major increases in telephone calls to physician offices regarding compliance with the rule and

Whereas: requiring the purpose for prescribing the drug is based on the medical decision making of the physician, and

Whereas: MPA has discussed these rules with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and requested their assistance with updating the rules to allow for the diagnosis to be documented in

a manner other than the "physician's own handwriting." LARA indicated that these rules were drafted "20 years ago, prior to the utilization of technology, and were meant for the prescriber and not intended for tools for plans to recoup monies."

Therefore: be it resolved that MSMS draft a letter to start a discussion with LARA to rescind this rule.

RESOLUTIONS

TITLE: RESOLUTION RE: CLASSIFICATION OF GENESEE HEALTH PLAN AS “CREDITABLE COVERAGE”

Introduced by: Cathy Blight, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Lawrence Reynolds, MD

Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, effective March 23, 2010, created a temporary high-risk health insurance pool program for citizens of the United States until it ends on December 31, 2013, at which time similar insurance coverage will be available through health insurance exchanges as mandated by Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and

Whereas, the temporary high-risk health insurance pool program is to provide health insurance coverage to currently uninsured individuals with pre-existing conditions, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation (OFIR) has designated the Michigan-based HMO Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan to contract directly with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to administer this high-risk health insurance pool program in the State of Michigan to offer coverage to uninsured Michigan citizens who have been unable to obtain health coverage because of a pre-existing health condition, and

Whereas, the Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan, as a result of this designation by the State of Michigan and contract with HHS, has created and will administer the Health Insurance Program for Michigan, or HIP Michigan, as a new statewide program that provides high-quality health coverage at affordable rates to uninsured Michigan residents with pre-existing medical conditions, and

Whereas, to qualify as eligible for enrollment in HIP Michigan, applicants must (1) be a resident of Michigan; (2) be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States; (3) within the past six months, have been denied coverage due to health conditions or have been offered coverage with a rider excluding certain health conditions; (4) have been uninsured (not had creditable coverage) for six months prior to submitted your application, and

Whereas, HIP Michigan and the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation defines “creditable coverage” as “any kind of health insurance coverage or healthcare coverage from the following list: Employer-sponsored health coverage; Medicare Parts A, B and D; Medicaid; TriCare (formerly CHAMPUS); CHAMPVA; a medical care program of the federal Indian Health Service or of an American Indian tribal organization; a federal employee health plan; a public health plan”, and

Whereas, Genesee Health Plan has been classified as “creditable coverage” by HIP Michigan and the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, and

Whereas, Genesee Health Plan’s classification as “creditable coverage” thus makes all Genesee Health Plan enrollees ineligible for HIP Michigan, despite the fact that Genesee Health Plan is not health insurance, and

Whereas, Genesee Health Plan, while not health insurance, is the only community-sponsored healthcare program for eligible residents in Genesee County that have no health insurance and meet income requirements that provides limited services for doctor visits, prescriptions, lab tests and x-rays, but does not pay for hospital or other inpatient services covered under HIP Michigan.

RESOLVED: That the Michigan State Medical Society strongly recommend to HIP Michigan and the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation that Genesee Health Plan’s classification of “creditable coverage” be removed immediately to allow Genesee Health Plan recipients who would otherwise qualify as eligible for HIP Michigan, the State of Michigan’s temporary high-risk health insurance pool program, to obtain much needed health insurance coverage available to currently uninsured individuals with pre-existing conditions.

TITLE: GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Original Author: Lawrence Reynolds, M.D. and Gary Johnson, M.D.

Introduced by: Gerald Natzke, D.O.

WHEREAS, outdoor air pollution is now recognized as a public health problem both nationally and at the state level;

WHEREAS, numerous studies are finding deleterious health effects from air pollution levels once deemed safe;

WHEREAS, air pollution causes exacerbation of chronic lung disease and asthma resulting in increased numbers of emergency visits and hospitalizations, and is also implicated in heart disease, strokes and premature deaths;

WHEREAS, Michigan's geographic location makes its citizens susceptible to air pollution generated in other states, in addition to that from within the state, resulting in half of its citizens living in counties with unhealthy air;

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act is the best tool we have to protect ourselves from cross-state air pollution; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the Clean Air Act prevented 160,000 premature deaths and 1.7 million instances of asthma exacerbation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Genesee County Medical Society strongly supports the Clean Air Act and emphatically opposes all attempts to weaken, dismantle, overrule, or otherwise impede the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing or implementing it.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan State Medical Society ask the American Medical Association to reaffirm support of the Clean Air Act at its House of Delegates.

TITLE: THANK YOU TO CONGRESSMAN DALE KILDEE

Introduced by: Cathy O. Blight, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: The Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors

Whereas, Congressman Dale Kildee has provided over 40 years of service to Genesee County and the State of Michigan in the State Legislature and Congress, and

Whereas, before becoming an elected official he served Genesee County as a superb teacher, and

Whereas, Congressman Kildee has always supported the profession of medicine and the patients and families they serve, and

Whereas, Congressman Kildee has always endeavored to do that which is right as opposed to that which is politically expedient, and

Whereas, Congressman Kildee has always endeavored to put the needs of his community before his own personal and political needs, and

Whereas, Congressman Kildee has always received the endorsement of the American Medical Association Political Action Committee because of his staunch support of the profession of medicine, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Michigan State Medical Society recognize and thank Congressman Dale Kildee for his years of service, and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS ask the AMA House of Delegates to similarly honor Congressman Dale Kildee for his service to the profession of medicine, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan State Medical Society and Genesee County Medical Society wish Congressman Kildee a wonderful retirement.

RESOLUTIONS

TITLE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TOBACCO-FREE PARKS AND BEACHES IN GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND THE UNITED STATES

Introduced by: TBD, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Gary Johnson, M.D.

House Action:

Whereas, in order to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Genesee County, Michigan and the nation as a whole; and

Whereas, tobacco use causes death and disease and continues to be an urgent public health challenge; and

Whereas, secondhand smoke has repeatedly been identified as a health hazard; and

Whereas, exposure to secondhand smoke anywhere has negative health impacts, and exposure to secondhand smoke does, contrary to a common misconception, occur at significant levels outdoors; and

Whereas, smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking and causes significant death and disease; and

Whereas, children who attend or participate in athletic and recreational events can be affected by secondhand smoke and the use of other tobacco products; and smoking and the use of other tobacco products at such events sends a deleterious health message to youth and student athletes; and

Whereas, cigarette butts are the most littered item in the United States and a dangerous nuisance; and

Whereas, cigarette butts pose a health threat to young children, pets and wildlife; and

Whereas, smoking outside in natural areas, where there are trees, shrubs and grasses, poses a significant risk of fire damage to those natural areas, and cigarette-caused fires unnecessarily jeopardize firefighters and result in avoidable emergency response costs; and

Whereas, laws restricting the use of tobacco products have clear benefits to public health and medical costs; and

Whereas, unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system; and

Whereas, electronic cigarettes are known to have caused serious injury from explosion of their rechargeable lithium batteries; and

Whereas, creating smoke-free areas helps protect the health of our children and the 80 percent of adults who do not smoke; and

Whereas, a large number of citizens and visitors to beaches and parks find smoking and the use of tobacco products a serious health concern in both indoor and outdoor environments, particularly where a large number of people are gathered together in close proximity; and

Whereas, there is no Constitutional right to smoke or use other tobacco products; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Genesee County Medical Society request the Michigan State Medical Society to endorse the idea of making all parks and beaches in Michigan 100% tobacco-free; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan State Medical Society carry a resolution to the American Medical Association House Of Delegates requesting that the AMA endorse making all parks and beaches in the United States 100% tobacco free, and pursue this goal by working with all state medical societies to establish similar policy implementation in each state.

ADDENDUM OF FACTS

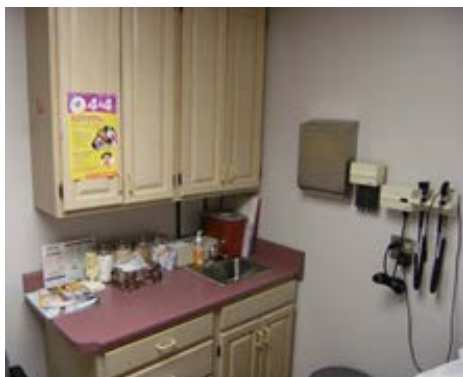
- Tobacco-related illness is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, accounting for about 443,000 deaths each year, and tobacco use causes chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke, in addition to cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, and mouth; and
- The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is responsible for as many as 3,000 deaths from lung cancer and 46,000 deaths from heart disease among nonsmokers each year in the United States. Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of coronary heart disease by approximately 30 percent, and causes lower respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, in as many as 300,000 children in the United States under the age of 18 months each year, and exacerbates childhood asthma; and
- Levels of secondhand smoke exposure outdoors can reach levels attained indoors depending on the direction and amount of wind and number and proximity of smokers. Irritation from secondhand smoke begins at levels as low as 4 micrograms per cubic meter, and in some outdoor situations this level can be found as far away as 13 feet from the burning cigarette; and
- Smoking cigarettes near building entryways can increase air pollution levels by more than two times as compared to background levels, with maximum levels reaching the “hazardous” range on the US EPA’s Air Quality Index; and
- Studies on a cruise ship have found that even while cruising at 20 knots and with unlimited air volume, outdoor smoking areas contained carcinogens in nearly the same amounts as inside the ship’s casino where smoking was allowed; and
- Smokeless tobacco use causes leukoplakia, a disease causing white patches to form in the user’s mouth that can become cancerous; smokeless tobacco products are known to cause lung, larynx, esophageal, and oral cancer; and the regular use of snuff doubles the user’s risk of cardiovascular disease and death; and prolonged use of snus, a form of smokeless tobacco, contributes to high blood pressure and to a higher likelihood of suffering a fatal stroke; and
- Americans discard more than an estimated 175 million pounds of cigarette butts every year, frequently onto sidewalks, streets, beaches, and nature trails, and in parks, gardens and other public places, ending up in storm drains that flow into the water supply; and
- Cigarette filters, made of plastic cellulose acetate, are not biodegradable and can take approximately 15 years to decompose; and
- In 2009, American poison control centers received nearly 8,000 reports of children poisoned by the ingestion of cigarettes, cigarette butts, and other tobacco products; and children who ingest cigarette butts can experience vomiting, nausea, lethargy, gagging, and convulsions; and
- Nicotine ingestion by animals can cause vomiting, weakness, convulsions, respiratory failure and even death; and
- Cities with smokefree laws see an appreciable reduction in hospital admittances for heart attacks in the months and years after such laws are passed; and
- Smoking bans help people reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke or quit altogether; and
- After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA’s testing also suggested that “quality control processes used to manufacture these products are inconsistent or non-existent.”

COMMIT TO FIT WILL HELP YOUR PRACTICE!

Commit to Fit! is a community-wide campaign funded by the Greater Flint Health Coalition (GFHC), and aggressively supported by the Genesee County Medical Society (GCMS). The focus of *Commit to Fit!* has been to increase the practice of healthy behaviors (physical activity, nutrition, quitting smoking, etc.) and to provide free resources to our physicians, their patients, and the community to stimulate meaningful lifestyle changes. As we are all aware, Genesee County is becoming increasingly sedentary and unhealthy. In 2012, Genesee ranked 77th out of 82 counties in Michigan for morbidity and mortality. Much of our poor health outcomes can be directly linked to poor health behaviors. This is why our goal is to collaborate with our physicians and to provide resources that will lead to an increase in the practice of healthy living, including exercise, nutrition, and overall improvements of health behaviors.



Commit to Fit! has received broad support from many businesses, schools, and organizations throughout Genesee County. This has created the resource base which allows our local physicians and office staff to use the program, essentially, as an extension of your practice and health services. As physicians, you are at the forefront of patient behavior change, and can play a very influential role while using the framework of *Commit to Fit!*



We provide an excellent set of free tools which inform patients of the key ways they can improve their health. By improving nutrition (1), regular physical activity (2), annual physical exams (3), and avoiding tobacco use (4), we will see improvements in BMI (1), blood glucose (2), cholesterol (3), and blood pressure (4). This is our “4x4” wellness model approach. By simply displaying these materials within your office, you are beginning to educate and cause patients to take an active role in their own health. Now, when a patient asks you “What can I do to lose some weight?” or “What should I be doing to keep healthy?” you

have a great reference tool and can actually hand them information on how and where to begin.

The “99 Easy Ways to Better Health” brochure (pictured above, top right) and the 4x4 health pocket cards are great physician resources. They offer simple ways to start being physically active, which is perfect for a patient who may not know how to begin daily exercise. Offices all over the county are using the brochures in waiting areas and exam rooms, and the pocket cards offer additional help for office staff to reinforce patient behaviors. We also offer a convenient tear-off Prescription pad for Health that allows you to easily “prescribe” healthy lifestyle behaviors such as exercise, stress reduction, improving sleeping habits, etc.

For more information on the *Commit to Fit!* campaign, please contact Nick Bendall at 517-243-2008 or by email at nbendall@gcms.org, and be sure to visit www.commit2fit.com.

We are Committed to Getting You Fit. Are You?



4x4

4x4 Ways to a Healthy Life
in Flint & Genesee County.

For Information on *Free Commit to Fit!*
Physician Resources Please Contact:

Nick Bendall
517-243-2008
nbendall@gcms.org

Even small daily choices can help you
feel better and live healthier.

Follow These

4 KEY HEALTHY BEHAVIORS:

1. Maintain a Healthy Diet
2. Engage in Regular Exercise
3. Get an Annual Physical Examination
4. Avoid All Tobacco Use and Exposure



Talk to Your Doctor About These

4 KEY HEALTH MEASURES:

1. Body Mass Index (BMI)
2. Blood Pressure
3. Cholesterol Level
4. Blood Glucose Level



For a list of free weekly *Commit to Fit!* classes
or to register for upcoming *Commit to Fit!*
challenges, visit commit2fit.com.

Learn more at commit2fit.com



Commit to Fit! "13 in 2013" Fitness & Nutrition Classes

Commit to Fit! is offering free fitness and nutrition classes to all individuals who live or work in Genesee County/Flint. All participants will need to check-in prior to attending each class to receive a stamp on their Commit to Fit! "13 in 2013" stamp card. See back side for fitness center location details and incentives for participating.

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2013 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY, 2013	17	18	19 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	20 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	21 Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	22 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	23 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.
	24	25	26 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	27 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	28 C2F Nutrition Riverfront 5:30 p.m. Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	1 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	2 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.
MARCH, 2013	3	4	5 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	6 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	7 Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	8 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	9 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.
	10	11	12 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	13 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	14 Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	15 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	16 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.
	17	18	19 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	20 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	21 Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	22 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	23 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.
	24	25	26 Tai Chi UM-Flint Rec 12:00 noon	27 Zumba Gold (Beginner) GAC 5:30 p.m.	28 C2F Nutrition Riverfront 5:30 p.m. Basic Yoga HHFC 6:45 p.m.	29 Zumba Toning UM-Flint Rec 5:30 p.m.	30 Gentle Yoga HHFC 10:15 a.m.

Participants will be required to complete a brief registration process prior to attending these classes. This brief registration can be completed at the membership offices of any participating fitness center if have questions or would like to complete the registration in advance please email commit2fit@flint.org.

CLASSES ARE FREE-OF-CHARGE TO RESIDENTS, HOWEVER, ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO ADULTS (AGES 18 & UP) AND ARE FIRST COME FIRST SERVE SO ARRIVE EARLY!!! SEE BACK SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!!!

Commit to Fit! “13 in 2013” Fitness & Nutrition Classes

FITNESS CENTER LOCATION INFORMATION

Participants will be required to complete a brief registration process at one of the fitness centers’ membership offices prior to participating, at which time they will receive a *Commit to Fit!* stamp card. Participants will then receive a stamp on their *Commit to Fit!* “13 in 2013” stamp card for each class they attend. Once a card has been completed participants can return the card to the fitness center membership office of their choice to redeem a free 13 day guest pass for that specific center only. Participants will be asked to provide a photo ID at this time. Please email commit2fit@flint.org with questions.

Fitness Center	Location	Membership Office Hours
University of Michigan – Flint Recreation Center (UM-Flint Rec)	401 Mill St. 303 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48502 (810) 762-3300	Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Hurley Health & Fitness Center (HHFC)	4500 South Saginaw Street Flint, MI 48507 (810) 262-2222	Monday & Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Genesys Athletic Club (GAC)	801 Health Park Boulevard Grand Blanc Township, MI 48439 (810) 606 – 7300	Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
Riverfront Banquet Center (Riverfront)	1 Riverfront West Flint, MI 48502	N/A – Participants will check in room class is being held at.

INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATING:

- **Free 13-Day Membership**
 - Participants who attend 13 classes and earn 13 stamps on their stamp card will be eligible to receive a free 13-day membership pass at one of the three participating fitness centers (UM-Flint Recreation Center, Hurley Health & Fitness Center, or Genesys Athletic Club – only one can be chosen).
 - This membership can be obtained through the membership office of the fitness center you would like to use for the 13-day membership pass (during membership office hours only).
- **Grand Prize - \$500 Cash**
 - Participants who attend 13 classes and earn 13 stamps on their stamp card will be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 cash prize! This will be selected in December, 2013.



For updated monthly calendars of the *Commit to Fit!* “Fitness & Nutrition Classes, please visit:

www.commit2fit.com

MIC-6C3
C2F.fitness.class.calendar.UPDAT
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Genesee County Medical Society Board Meeting

January 22, 2013 - MINUTES

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ray Rudoni, MD, President in the Rapport Conference Room.

II. Introduction of Guests:

Dr. Rudoni introduced Tony Cuttitta of the Greater Flint Health Coalition.

III. Review of Minutes:

Motion: That the Board of Directors meeting minutes of November 27, 2012 be approved as presented.

The Motion Carried.

IV. Reports:

A) Alliance Report:

Mrs. Oya Agabigum, President of the GCMS Alliance, was not able to be present at the meeting and sent a written report.

The GCMS Ball had 117 attendees. The event was a great success. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Ball Committee. GCMSA membership is 120. 2012 contributions to the AMA Foundation Scholarship Fund were \$1,075. The Alliance continues its contributions to the women's shelter via Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference.

The Health Careers Program reported that 75 new volunteers were accepted into the program. On March 12, a Career Days Open House will be held with GCMSA collaborating with Hurley Medical Center to get the word out.

The Christmas gift wrapping event was a great success. GCMSA prepared gift bags and wrapped 20 contributed gifts by the membership. These gifts were distributed to children in the Pediatric ICU at Hurley Medical Center and to children in the emergency room. There were also monetary contributions and contributions of over 50 teddy bears.

The Healing Hands 5K Run is planned for May 18 in support of the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic.

Motion: That the Genesee County Medical Society allocate \$500 to the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance from the proceeds of the Presidents' Ball. The Motion Carried.

Directive: Staff was directed to issue a check to the Alliance in the amount of \$500 per the Board.

B) Commit to Fit! Update:

Consensus: That all Board members accept Commit to Fit! materials for their offices and examining rooms.

C) Finance Committee Report:

1. Budget to Actual Report for the period ending December 31, 2012

Motion: That the Year Budget to Actual Report for the period ending December 31, 2012 be approved as presented.

The Motion Carried.

D) Legislative Liaison Committee Report:

Dr. Rudoni reported that during the lame duck session of the legislature, two major tort reform bills passed. The Attorney Equivalency Bill and the ERISA Bills will be reintroduced in the new session. Scope of Practice Bills were also defeated soundly but are likely to come back up again in January. The Supreme Court elections were a major success. In addition, Chief Justice Hathaway is stepping down due to her conviction for bank fraud.

E) Membership Committee Report:

Dr. S. Bobby Mukkamala reported on the Membership Committee focusing on specific individuals and groups. In addition, he requested that the Board contact Genesys about their residents. The GCMS membership is up four active members in 2013 vs. 2012 and down a total of six for all dues-paying categories, mostly from falloff in first-year memberships. The resident members are down by 57 which is approximately the number of residents at Genesys which have not been recouped.

F) Community & Environmental Health Committee Report:

Drs. Gerald Natzke and Gary Jonson reviewed resolutions relating to the Clean Air Act and GHP as Creditable Insurance.

Motion: That the Clean Air Act resolution for the American Lung Association be approved, adding a resolved that would have MSMS take this resolution to the American Medical Association House of Delegates for reaffirmation of AMA policy. The Motion Carried.

Motion: That the GHP as Creditable Insurance resolution be approved, noting that Genesee County is the only tax-based county health program, but it is not insurance. The Motion Carried.

G) President's Report:

Dr. Rudoni reported that Colin Ford of the Michigan State Medical Society will be presenting to the membership on the massive changes in the medical political environment which are upcoming as well as legislation which is going to impact medical practices and physicians' families.

Dr. Rudoni reported that he and Mr. Levine will be meeting with Bernard Eng of *The Flint Journal*.

Dr. Rudoni reported that he attended a new legislators' reception in conjunction with the Michigan Hospital Association. The new legislators' reception for the Michigan State Medical Society will be held on February 20. He encouraged Board members to attend. He also noted that he and Mr. Levine had attended the Michigan State Medical Society Board meeting earlier in the month. He also reported on a presentation given by James Havenman, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, at that meeting.

Dr. Rudoni finally reported on the AMA Legislative Conference which was held in early January in Florida. He said it was a very exciting meeting, full of updates and insights.

H) District VI Directors Report:

Drs. S. Bobby Mukkamala and John Waters provided a review of the MSMS Board meeting. They also noted that, in Wayne County, hundreds of residents have been lost through a decision made by DMC to no longer pay residents' dues.

I) Greater Flint Health Coalition:

Several physicians provided updates on ongoing projects at the Health Coalition.

J) AMA Update:

Dr. Mukkamala noted that the SGR 27% cut has been avoided for the year. The AMA is pushing for a permanent fix to the SGR problem and is funding grants for undergraduate medical education. He also noted that the AMA has a new Executive Vice President.

V. New Business:

A) House of Delegates Campaigns:

Dr. Rudoni reviewed the key elections upcoming at the MSMS House of Delegates. For speaker, Pino Colone, MD will be running unopposed. For Vice Speaker, Dr. Rudoni is planning to run. He will attend county delegation meetings. For AMA Alternate Delegate, it was noted that Betty Chu of Oakland is running.

B) St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center:

Dr. Nita Kulkarni introduced material from the St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center, noting that the center uses recovering mothers to make scrubs and other items for physician practices. Its website is www.stlukenewlifectr.com.

Consensus: That the St. Luke N.E.W. Life Center, PPI, the Emergency Medical Centre, Commit to Fit!, and the MSMS Physician's Insurance Agency be invited to display tables at the upcoming dinner business meeting.

VI. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors will take place on February 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment:

No further business appearing. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

We reward loyalty. We applaud dedication. We believe doctors deserve more than a little gratitude. We do what no other insurer does. We proudly present the Tribute® Plan. **We honor years spent practicing good medicine.** We salute a great career. We give a standing ovation. We are your biggest fans. **We are The Doctors Company.**

You deserve more than a little gratitude for a career spent practicing good medicine. That's why The Doctors Company created the Tribute Plan. This one-of-a-kind benefit provides our long-term members with a significant financial reward when they leave medicine. How significant? Think "new car." Or maybe "vacation home." Now that's a fitting tribute. The Michigan State Medical Society exclusively endorses our medical malpractice insurance program, and we are a preferred partner of the Michigan Osteopathic Association. To learn more about our program benefits, call our East Lansing office at (800) 748-0465 or visit www.thedoctors.com/tribute.



Tribute Plan projections are not a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future balance amounts. For additional details, see www.thedoctors.com/tribute.

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Health Dept. Implements Nurse-Family Partnership Program



The Genesee County Health Department announced the implementation of the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program available countywide. NFP is a national, evidence-based, maternal and child home visiting program that provides free, confidential, nurse home visitation services to expecting first-time mothers and their families.

Eligibility requirements include first time mothers prior to their 28th week of pregnancy, who reside in Genesee County and are at or below 185% of poverty. This project was made possible with funding from the Michigan Department of Community Health and Genesee County. A generous grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded through the Clara Elizabeth Maternal Health Fund, Healthy Start for Children Fund and the Frances S. Wilson Health Care Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. Additionally, the support of many local organizations through the Great Start Collaborative has assisted in bringing NFP to Genesee County.

NFP serves families in 41 states with a mission to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development and improve self-sufficiency of families by helping parents develop a vision for their future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work. The program pairs specially trained Public Health Nurses with expecting first-time mothers. Home visits begin early in the mother's pregnancy and continue until the child's second birthday. Nurses provide support, education and counseling on health, behavior, self-sufficiency and parenting issues. They also help the first-time moms improve pregnancy outcomes by

assisting women to find a medical home and engage in prenatal health care and good preventive health practices. Through this program, first-time moms are provided with skills, support and knowledge around child growth and development, child home safety, successful parenting, assistance in seeking educational opportunities, developing job skills, building a strong network of support and obtaining referrals for other support services available in the community.

Between 2000 and 2011, more than 700 babies in Genesee County died before their first birthday. Research has shown mothers and children who have participated in the NFP program have consistently demonstrated significantly improved prenatal health, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased maternal employment, improved child school readiness, reduced involvement in crime, and less child abuse, neglect and injuries.

The Genesee County NFP program is currently accepting referrals. Health care providers, social service providers, schools, self-referrals and anyone who believes an expecting first-time mother could benefit from this nurse home visiting program can make a referral. "This program changes the life trajectories for both mother and child, benefiting multiple generations," says Mark Valacak, MPH, Health Officer, Genesee County Health Department.

If you are interested in more information about NFP or would like to refer a first-time mother, or have questions about the program, please contact the NFP program coordinator Sherry Taylor, BSN, RN at 810-257-3833.

ELECTRONICS: DOES IT REALLY MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER? *ONLY IF USED APPROPRIATELY*

“The most effective teacher will always be biased for the chief force in teaching is confidence and enthusiasm”

– Joyce Cary

Is your medical practice easier and more expeditious due to the use of electronics? Is billing easier due to the use of electronics? Is providing medical records to patients easier due to the use of electronics? All of these questions are rhetorical. Electronics only makes your life easier if it is used appropriately.

Facebook obviously raises HIPAA concerns, but health care providers are tempted, and respond to postings by patients. Does your office staff “friend” a patient? Has your staff ever posted a picture in surgical scrubs? Facebook is used as an informational source, but is a networking black hole. Don’t use it as a shameless plug that your office is praying for Aunt Janie’s kidney stone to pass, or Grandpa Leo’s prostate biopsy resulted in an encapsulated cancer which can be surgically removed without the need for chemotherapy or radiation. To allow your staff to tweet, or respond to a Facebook posting becomes your HIPAA violation in social media. Texting a patient’s spouse or loved one regarding the result of surgery or blood test is also a violation of HIPAA. Don’t do it, and instruct your office staff not to do it. Who retrieves the text? Was a screen shot

taken of the text? The appropriate response to patients requesting an immediate answer is via EMR. The EMR is protected by the physician/patient confidentiality and patient access by a password.

The pitfalls of EMRs (electronic medical records authorizing access within one health care organization), and EHR’s (electronic health records accessed by more than one health organization) through an HIE (health information exchange, is an entity that facilitates sharing of information), are self-evident just by the number of acronyms involved in this new paperless medical record system.

Without providing the boring history since 2000 of the genesis of the new paperless medical record system, which must be implemented by 2014, under National Healthcare, without detailing the anticipated benefits of the new EMRs, or the federal financial incentives, and without a detailed explanation of whether Michigan should “opt-in” to the National Healthcare Reform, this article addresses potential pitfalls. You and your office staff must be educated on EMRs, EHRs, and HIEs, along with the relevant Federal regulations. Some new pitfalls in the systems which I have encountered as a litigator include:

- EMRs automatically create a trail of health care treatment, and the time spent with each patient for

treatment. This eases the billing process, but may infer you did not spend enough time.

- Operating in the background of each EMR is Medidata or backup, which may be subject to discovery in a lawsuit.

- Medidata provides information which could implicate or infer sub-standard care. Medidata will include such information as how long a radiologist looked at a particular study; who accessed the laboratory data or a portion of the chart; when was the chart accessed; where was the provider; at home in the office or out of state when the data was accessed.

- Adverse outcomes. How many times did the medical provider access the record following an adverse outcome? From where did you access the record? Why did you access the record multiple times? The question that may be asked in depositions include: guilty conscience, amendment or changes to the records, did you copy the record, did you log in under your user name or a resident or nurse? Be mindful of your access to the record. Do it once and make it meaningful. Login under your user name.

- Alerts for medication reactions. The vendors have created alerts or alarms within the system. EMRs will trigger an adverse reaction to medications by an alert. Don’t override the alert without explaining the disarming of the alarm. The

vendor alert will also allow you to track patients on whether they have filled their prescriptions. Did your office call the patient back on a refill of the prescription?

- The most alarming problem is “cutting and pasting.” This is truly evident with the next generation of health care providers exclusively trained on computers and electronics. A physical exam may be posted to the EMRs over and over again. This causes audit concerns. It causes issues with “upcoding” or billing for something that was not done. Audits will be performed for identical language, and copy and paste usage for fraud pursuit.

- Did you or your staff access the record of a local celebrity in town? How about a neighbor? How about a friend? How about even your own minor child? Accessing the medical record for patient, even a minor child, will trigger audits.

At Cline, Cline & Griffin, the attorneys are educated on issues of electronic medical records and familiar with licensing concerns due to audits. Our office will represent your interests in the event of an audit. Cline, Cline & Griffin will also provide an educational course for your staff with specific examples of problems and benefits of EMR's. Cline, Cline & Griffin will assist your practice in avoiding the pitfalls of electronic medical records. This may be of great benefit to your practice since it's ultimately the medical provider (not the vendor) responsible for HIPAA compliance.

“Whatever you want to teach, be brief.” – Cicero

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOCTOR

MARCH

S. Bobby Mukkamala	1	Karsten Fliegner	13	David Lee	22
Sascha Nicolai Knoblich	2	Charles Hennessy	13	Tjin Lie Lim	22
Anju Sawni-Sikand	2	Virgilio Villarreal	13	R. Roderick Abbott	24
Joseph Varghese	2	Suresh Anne	14	Nicholas Velarde	25
Wendy Lawton	4	Cory Cookingham, Sr.	14	Shagufta Ali	26
Rama Devi Rao	4	Paul Karr, Sr.	14	Clinton Dowd	26
Rizwan Danish	5	Bruce Troutman	15	Venkata Kilaru	26
Vijay Naraparaju	5	James Neubeck	16	Harold Rutila	26
Ghassan Bachuwa	8	Christie Samuels	16	James Vanbrocklin	26
George Zureikat	8	Russell Sandberg	17	Jamal Hammoud	27
Dilip Desai	9	Silva Doyle	19	Chang Lee	27
Robert Rosenbaum	9	Robert House	19	Joseph Batdorf	28
Madan Arora	10	Yaseen Hashish	20	Tomy Kalapparambath	28
Fengxia Qiao	11	David Gordon	21	Vikram Rao	28
Frank Cook	12	Asif Ishaque	21	Jawad Shah	28
John Brady	13	Abdul Alawwa	22	Elfateh Seedahmed	30

PRACTICE MANAGERS

On January 24, 2013, GCMS held its monthly meeting of practice managers. Informal discussions resolved around MSMS's effort to work with POs, the fact that GCMS would begin to convene the PO medical directors, Lewis and Knopf reported that taxation issues are creating great complications for groups and private practices.

The presentation of the day was an introduction to the McLaren PHO. Kathy Condon, Managed Care Coordinator for the region, and Jan Leitz, R.N., Quality Analyst for the PHO, provided an overview of the PHO, and entertained comments and questions regarding how to interact with McLaren PHO. This was the second in a series on POs and PHOs in the region.

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Small office located by front door of Genesee County Medical Society suite. Great exposure for businesses seeking visibility with physicians. Conference room availability possible. Office size 100 sq. ft. at \$12 per sq. ft. triple-net. Additional office space available. Contact Pete Levine at (810) 733-9925 for details.

PHYSICIANS NEEDED

at the Emergency Medical Center of Flint Various shifts available for part-time, as well. Must be willing to do minor stitches, infants & children, splinting, and minor eye & ear procedures. This is a classic urgent care much like family practice. Hours of operation 9:30am – 9pm, 7 days a week, closed on major holidays Located at 2284 S. Ballenger Hwy., Suite 2, Flint, 48503. Contact Pete Levine at 810-733-9925.

If you or someone you know would like to advertise in *The Bulletin* please contact Becky Doty at bdoty@gcms.org or (810) 733-9923.



Please PRINT or TYPE

FULL NAME _____ MD or DO (Circle One)
Last First Middle Initial

HOME ADDRESS, CITY & ZIP _____
Area Code & Telephone Number

OFFICE ADDRESS, CITY & ZIP _____
Area Code & Telephone Number

PRACTICE NAME _____
Office Fax Number

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ For mailing, please use (check one): Office address Home address

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA Sex: Male Female Birth Place _____ Date of Birth _____
Month Day Year

Maiden Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Languages Spoken _____

Government Service (check one): Military National Health Service Beginning Date _____ Completion Date _____

EDUCATION (please complete or attach CV)

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR GRADUATED	
			Beginning	Ending
College/University _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Medical School _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

INTERNSHIP, RESIDENCY, AND FELLOWSHIPS	SPECIALTY	COMPLETION DATE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

License: MI # _____ Date Issued _____ ECFMG # _____

License held in other states/countries (list states or countries) _____

PROFESSIONAL DATA

Present Type of Practice (check appropriately):

OFFICE BASED: Solo Hospital Based Teaching Research Government
 Group Practice Name _____ Other (specify) _____

Specialty(ies) _____

Board Certifications (list specialties & dates) _____

Present Hospital Appointments (list dates) _____

Practice History _____

Previous Medical Society Membership (list dates) _____

Specialty Society Memberships _____

Within the last five years, have you been convicted of a felony crime?..... Yes No If YES, please provide full information.

Within the last five years, has your license to practice medicine in any jurisdiction been limited, suspended or revoked?..... Yes No If YES, please provide full information.

Within the last five years, have you been the subject of any disciplinary action by any medical society or hospital staff?..... Yes No If YES, please provide full information.

I agree to support the GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY Constitution and Bylaws, the MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY Constitution and Bylaws, and the Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association as applied by the AMA and the MSMS Judicial Commission.

Signature _____ Date _____

WHEN COMPLETED, please mail to MSMS or Genesee County Medical Society, or FAX to 517-336-5797. THANK YOU!



PHYSICIANS NEEDED AT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CENTER OF FLINT

*Various shifts are available for part-time.
Full time may be an opportunity as well.*

Must be willing to do minor stitches, infants & children, splinting, and minor eye & ear procedures. This is a classic urgent care, much like family practice.

Hours of operation:

12-9 pm, 7 days a week, closed on major holidays

Located at 2284 S. Ballenger Hwy.,

Suite 2, Flint, 48503.

Contact Joyce Ashe at 810-2322710

or Pete Levine at 810-7339925.