



WCMS News

Winnebago County Medical Society

**November/
December 2017**

Upcoming Events

January 24, 2018

WCMS Annual Meeting

February 26, 2018

Board of Directors Meeting

April 20 – 22, 2018

ISMS House of Delegates Mtg

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WCMS Annual Meeting

*The Board of Directors of the
Winnebago County Medical Society*

*Invites you and your spouse/guest
to our*

2017 Annual Meeting and Vendor's Fair

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Forest Hills Country Club

Vendor's Fair and Reception ~ 5:30pm

Dinner and Program ~ 6:30pm

Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent,
Rockford Public Schools**

Nestor A. Ramirez, MD, President,

Illinois State Medical Society

ISMS Legislative/Advocacy Report

Formal Invitations will be mailed

Premier sponsor: Savant Capital Management

Illinois State Medical Society News

Medicare Patients to Receive New ID Cards

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is preparing an initiative designed to combat fraud and better protect patients by changing the Medicare ID cards. April 2018 Medicare ID cards **will no longer contain social security numbers** instead they will use a unique randomly-selected number called Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), an 11 digit number using alpha and numeric characters. The MBI will replace the current Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN), which is based on the individual's social security number.

Medicare is proposing a transition period that will span from April 2018 through December 31, 2019, in which practices will be able to use both the new MBI and the current HICN. However, the MBI will be the only identifier accepted after December 31, 2019.

Action practices can take now to prepare?

- Advise Medicare beneficiaries that their identification cards will be changing
- Verify your Medicare patients' addresses. If the address you have on file differs from Medicare addresses you receive on electronic eligibility transactions, ask your patients to contact the Social Security Administration to update their Medicare records.
- Test your system and work with your billing staff to ensure that your medical office will be ready to use the new MBI format.

To help members with the transition, ISMS is planning to develop a dedicated web page, publish a corresponding issue brief and offer a webinar for physicians and office staff. The ISMS Division of Member Advocacy is also available to provide individualized assistance to members and their practice staff upon request. Questions in the meantime contact us at 1-800-782-4767 or by email www.isms.org.

Expedited Licensure Process for Multi-State Practice

If you wish to practice in other states in addition to Illinois there is now a fast-track process in place to obtain licenses outside our states borders. This initiative, spearheaded by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and

supported by the ISMS now provides an expedited process for eligible physicians to obtain medical licenses in other states participating in the Compact.

The Illinois application process came online in September 2017. The fast-track process will be very useful for Illinois physicians who practice telemedicine or want to more easily expand their practice into other states. If you have questions, call the ISMS Advocacy Team at 800-782-4767 ext 1470 or email.

UnitedHealthcare to Stop Reimbursing Certain Consultation Services Codes

UnitedHealthcare (UHC) is imposing a new reimbursement policy. Payment for certain outpatient and inpatient consultation CPT codes (99241-99245 and 99251-99255) will no longer be permitted for claims with dates of service **on or after October 1, 2017**. Instead UHC will reimburse the appropriate level of evaluation and management (E/M) procedure code to describe the office visit, hospital care, nursing facility care or home service care. Service must be billed the most appropriate **non-consultation E/M code**.

UHC states that the eliminated reimbursement for consultation codes is offset through increased E/M procedure code payment, as well as increased compensation for specific codes built into the relative value units (RVU) formula. Contact ISMS to share your thought or concerns at 800-782-4767 ext 1470 or email.

Medicare Reimbursements

Medicare will reimburse you for discussing advance care planning with patients. ISMS offers a helpful resource that can help you "break the ice" on advance care planning talks. *A Personal Decision* is a **free** publication that provides practical information, sample forms and guidance on advance directives – current with Illinois law. *A Personal Decision* makes a great hand out for patients. You may request up to 300 copies for patients. It is also available as a free download.

Contact ISMS purchasing department at 800-782-4767 or send an email.

Winnebago County Medical Society Awards

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford Annual Research Day

UIC Annual Research Day was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017. The Winnebago County Medical Society is a co-sponsor of this event. Physicians from the medical society serve as judges and review the medical student's research projects. The medical students present their research project to the judges and are available for questions. Judges rate each poster and presentation by giving each a specific score. Judging was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Dr. Mitchell King, Dr. Tiffanie Ferry and Dr. Christopher Whelan served as judges. They appreciated the medical students' involvement in the judging by participating in the presentation and answering questions. Awards went to:

***Daniel R. Principe** – KRASG12D and TP53R167H Cooperate to induce Pancreatic Carcinoma in Sus Scrofa Pigs.

***Adam Lake** – Results of a Community Based, Randomizes Study Comparing a Clear Liquid Diet to a Low Residue Diet using a Magnesium Citrate Preparation.

Senior Medical Student Award

The Winnebago County Medical Society (WCMS) established the WCMS Medical Student Award at the

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford in 1981. The award is given to a graduating medical student. The candidates are judged on the following: participation in a community organization or service to a segment of the community to enhance a particular understanding of health care; demonstrating an interest in the WCMS and support or enhance the efforts of this organization, however membership in the medical society is not necessary; an understanding of integrating patient care with community related services and by actively participating in a local service-oriented agency or other medically-related activity. The award was presented by Dr. Gary Fernando at the senior banquet to: **Belinda Daniel**.

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford White Coat Ceremony

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford held their annual White Coat Ceremony in October. Current medical students presented the second and first year medical students with white coats. Dr. Gary Fernando participated in the coating. The white coat symbolizes their next step as student doctors and their development into the profession of medicine.

SwedishAmerican Wound Care & Hyperbaric Clinics

A trusted local source of treatment is available to your patients with chronic, non-healing wounds. The SwedishAmerican Wound Care Clinic provides specialized, evidence-based treatment to patients with pressure ulcers, arterial, venous, diabetic, neuropathic and non-healing surgical wounds. Our clinic staff is experienced, trained and certified in wound care. We also offer hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This adjunct treatment may be indicated for some types of chronic non-healing wounds and/or skin changes from radiation therapy, bone infection, hypoxic wounds and bone infection in the jaw. In order to assure the best possible outcomes, we put patients' needs first, provide advanced treatment options and keep referring physicians involved and informed. For more information, or to make referrals, call (779) 696-4891.

Catherine Rogers, DNP
Dr. Michael Kikta, Medical Director
Patti Flood, Safety Director

Wound Care & Hyperbaric Clinics

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WCMS ANUAL GOLF PLAY DAY

The WCMS Golf Play Day was held on Friday, August 25, 2017 at Forest Hills Country Club. The golfers enjoyed the activities and contests on separate holes courtesy of our premier sponsor BMO Harris and golf cart sponsor Athletico Physical Therapy.

Thanks to our sponsors, golfers and committee for making the day a huge success!!

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## President's Message



Gary P. Fernando, M.D. – President

Greetings and happy autumn. I pen this letter to you as much is swirling around Washington and Illinois!

At the state level your legislative advocates from the WCMS and ISMS worked tirelessly in Springfield to help pass the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act which was signed by Governor Rauner. This is a strong lie for our patients and to help physicians navigate complex care models so that multiple formularies and systems are kept up to date. No more having to fumble around trying to get our patients better care!

Speaking of better care, we know that our training and years spent going our craft make us experts in our respective fields and specialties. Your county medical society continues to advocate for bills which protect our scope of practice and limit under-qualified providers from providing standard care to our patients.

At the national level the American Medical Association continues to work to make sure that any changes to the Affordable Care Act do not damage our power to provide expert healthcare. The AMA is committed to keeping our profession strong and making sure we remain at the table as bargaining goes forward.

To that end, I urge all of you to contact your members of Congress regarding an issue dear to my heart. On October 1 funding for the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) expired. The program which historically has had bipartisan support is authorized through 2019 but was only funded to this year. Currently, this leaves 9 million children without health insurance and their families wondering what their next steps will be if their child gets sick. In Illinois, All Kids (our CHIP program) provides access to over 330,000 children across our state. Please join me and the efforts of the AMA and the American Academy of Pediatrics as we continue to fight to restore this strong and vital program to our country's children.

I write this letter as my last I shall pen to you as my term comes to a conclusion this January. I thank you for your membership on our organization and your tireless efforts to provide healthcare to the citizens of Winnebago County. It has been a privilege to serve as your president these past two years. Even though I am leaving Rockford I look forward to continuing to work with all of you through our team at the Illinois State Medical Society as well as the AMA.

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting in January and I wish you and your families a blessed and joyous holiday season.

## Illinois State Medical Society Legislative Updates

### Medical Practice Extension Act

Governor Rauner recently signed Senate Bill 1348 which extended the sunset of the Medical Practice Act until December 31, 2019. The bill passed the General Assembly unanimously.

This two year renewal is an important move in the right direction. In recent years, the General Assembly has only authorized one-year renewals. Having to reauthorize the Act each year opens the door to unnecessary tinkering with the legal foundation of the practice of medicine.

The Medical Practice Act spells out the licensure standards and disciplinary proceeding for Illinois physicians. Without it, any person, regardless of qualification could practice medicine in Illinois without restriction or penalty.

### Network Adequacy and Transparency Act

Illinois lawmakers cleared ISMS' top legislative priority, the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act (NAT Act). The measure (House Bill 311) will be transmitted to Governor Rauner, ISMS has communicated to the governor, urging him to sign the bill into law.

Key provisions of House Bill 311 are:

- **Insurance companies will have to make sure their networks meet patients' needs** – that means enough health facilities and doctors, including specialists, in close proximity to where the policyholders live.
- **Health plans must be more transparent; provider directories must be kept up-to-date.** If a doctor or hospital is dropped from a network, the insurance company will have to notify patients in a timely fashion to help the patient avoid out of network charges. Doctors will also have new notification requirements if they choose to leave a network.
- **No disruption in patient care.** If a patient's doctor is dropped from the network and the patient is pregnant or has a complex medical condition, that patient will be able to stay with his or her same doctor long enough to make a smooth transition - without getting charged extra.

### Organ Donor Registry Expanded

Governor Rauner signed an ISMS supported bill to expand Illinois' organ donation registry. This new law allows 16 and 17 year olds to join the state's First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry when they receive the driver's license or identification card. The bipartisan legislation was initiated by the Secretary of State's office, backed by ISMS and passed the General Assembly with no opposition.

### Medicaid Telemedicine

Medicaid Telemedicine – House Bill 2907 and Senate Bill 2069 were introduced to provide that HFS shall not require that a physician or other licensed health care professional be physically present in the same room as the patient for the entire time during which the patient is receiving tele-psychiatry and telemedicine services. House bill 2907 passed both houses and is awaiting consideration by the governor

### Emergency Refills

Senator Stadelman introduced Senate Bill 179 with amends the Pharmacy Practice Act to authorize a pharmacist to refill a patient's prescription without prescriber authorization if the pharmacist is unable to contact the prescriber after a reasonable effort, the failure to refill the prescription may result in an interruption of therapeutic regimen or create patient suffering, and the prescription is not for a controlled substance. The bill also provided that the pharmacist must inform the prescriber at the earliest convenience of the emergency refills and the prescriptions may be refilled pursuant to the provisions of a period of time reasonably necessary for the pharmacist to secure prescriber authorization. The law limits emergency refills to the supply needed during the emergency period, not to exceed 30 days. The WCMS and the Pharmaceutical Association participated in a press conference with Senator Stadelman announcing the passage of this legislation.

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## Staff

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The Board of Directors of the Winnebago County Medical Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month, 6:30pm at the Medical Society office. Our phone number is 815-395-9267(wcms); fax number 815-484-4109, e-mail [wcms1@aol.com](mailto:wcms1@aol.com), and web site [www.wcmsonline.com](http://www.wcmsonline.com).