



DENVER MEDICAL BULLETIN

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Physicians Head to Capitol Hill

Denver Medical Society President-Elect Aaron Burrows, MD and Executive Director Kathy Lindquist-Kleissler joined a group of Colorado physician leaders in Washington D.C. in early March to participate in the AMA National Advocacy Conference and visit members of the Colorado congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the meeting is to update physician leaders across the country on legislative and regulatory actions impacting the practice of medicine and to provide an opportunity for physicians to schedule face-to-face meetings with their members of Congress. Physician leaders from Colorado met with Senators Bennett and Udall and each of the Colorado members of the House.

This year the focus was on passage of legislation to permanently fix the SGR, the Sustainable Growth Rate formula which drives Medicare physician reimbursement rates. Colorado physicians were also asking for support for the Colorado Medical Clean Claims Task Force whose work over the past 3½ years is producing a national model for transparency and uni-

formity in the medical claim edits process.

After years of frustration and delay, physicians once again faced an April 1 deadline for the repeal or temporary continuation of the SGR, but this year there had been some promising bi-partisanship shown in Congress with



John Bender, MD, CMS President; Rep. Diana DeGette, Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts, MD, CMS President-elect and DMS Board member; Aaron Burrows, MD, DMS President-elect

the passage out of committees of reference of the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014, HR4015/S2000. Just before our arrival in Washington D.C., both the House and Senate committees passed this legislation, which would produce a new policy framework repealing the SGR and creating a pathway to a higher performing Medicare program, on a bi-partisan basis. Colorado physicians called on our members of Congress to sign

on as sponsors to the pending legislation to fix the SGR once and for all. There seemed to be unanimous support for a permanent fix, but the sticking point has been where to find the money to cover the costs of the transition to a new methodology. Physicians across the country have urged members of Congress to act now to identify funding sources when there is bi-



Sen. Mark Udall; John Bender, MD, CMS President; Enno Heuscher, MD; Aaron Burrows, MD, DMS President-elect

partisan agreement on a path forward and the Congressional Budget Office has estimated the cost of a permanent fix to be at its lowest point in recent years.

After our return from D.C. it was announced that the House leadership was putting forth a proposal to fund the SGR fix by delaying for 5 years the implementation of the individual mandate under the ACA. This proposal was voted on in the House in mid-March and passed along a party line vote. It was obvious that this approach had no prospect of passing in the Senate. On March 31 the Senate passed HR4302, already passed by the House, which postpones the scheduled 24% cuts until April 1, 2015—the 17th temporary patch. The bill also delays scheduled ICD-10 implementation until October 1, 2015. DMS will continue to advocate for a permanent solution to the Medicare payment system.

The second issue Colorado physicians addressed with our members of Congress was a request already made to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to designate the work of the Colorado Medical Clean Claims Transparency and Uniformity Task Force be granted pilot project status and provide it funding under provisions of the ACA Administrative Simplification requirements. The Task Force was created by the Colorado Legislature in 2010 to bring together a broad based set of stakeholders to develop a uniform set of claim edits that could ultimately be adopted by all payers in Colorado. For over three years, a group of national and local representatives and experts have worked to achieve consensus on a uniform edit library and to explore implementation strategies. It has been estimated that a uniform set of medical claims edits and payment rules could yield a savings of \$80M to \$100M per year in Colorado alone. The Task Force is asking CMS to designate their work a “national pilot” and supply funds over the next two fiscal years to support the testing and implementation costs of this effort.



Aaron Burrows, MD; Thomas Mohr, DO; Sen. Michael Bennet

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Forum and Dinner

Thursday, May 29, 2014 6-9:00 pm

THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

You are invited to come for dinner and a discussion of current practice issues and future medical malpractice trends.

Featured Speakers:

Richard E. Anderson, MD, FACP, Chairman and CEO, The Doctors Company

James P. Bagian, MD, PE, former NASA astronaut; Director, Center for Healthcare Engineering and Patient Safety; and professor at the University of Michigan Medical School and College of Engineering

David Charles, MD, practicing plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Denver; member, The Doctors Company Board of Governors

All Denver Medical Society members and a guest are invited.

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March ICD-10 webinar now available on demand

For the March 18 webinar, we went back to the basics -- the ICD-10 book, mapping the codes and the provider documentation conversation. We scrutinized the ICD-9 to ICD-10 code comparisons, uncovered the necessary documentation clues using specific examples, and provided tips and tricks for effective communication with your providers.

Access this most recent webinar and the full series at www.cms.org/icd-10/archived-webinars.

DMS Members Eligible for New Savings

The Denver Medical Society is pleased to introduce a new member benefit program which will offer members a way to save on the purchase of medical and surgical products for their practices as well discover ways to increase efficiency and improve the care process. Our partner in this program is Medline Industries, a unique organization that is the largest privately held manufacturer and distributor of medical supplies in the U.S.

Medline's Physician Office organization offers several unique competitive advantages for Denver Medical Society members:

- *10% reduction in supply costs on average for Medline customers*
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- *Easy to use reports to help improve inventory management and cost control*
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- *Knowledgeable resources to provide assistance quickly and effectively for Denver Medical Society Members and their staff*

To find out how Medline can help your practice contact Brett at 1-415-602-3830 or BBaldschun@medline.com.



MEDICAL SPANISH and CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Friday, May 2 - Monday, May 5, 2014

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Denver Medical Society, 1850 Williams Street, Denver

Colorado has one of the highest proportions of Hispanic and Latino populations in the country. Denver counts over 31% of its population in this category! To enhance physician communication capabilities, Denver Medical Society in conjunction with the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) is offering a 4 day intensive, total-immersion learning experience in conversational and medical Spanish for physicians, nurses, PAs, NPs and other medical staff. Class levels are targeted to each student's needs and abilities. This is the 18th offering of this lively, rewarding, and highly popular class conducted by Rios Associates.

Four day class offers a ton of CMEs! Plan now to attend.

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

The cost of the class is \$499 for DMS members, \$599 for non-members, including text book. Optional cost: A Flash Drive containing the entire content of the text book—\$35.

To register, go to <http://medspanish.org> and click on the registration tab at the top. You will be able to register, pay and complete a brief Self Assessment Form at this site. On the registration form scroll down to "United States": DMS members select the \$499 "Students" rate; non-members select the \$599 "Residents, PAs, and RNs" rate. By completing the Assessment Form, the instructors will be able to determine whether you belong in the Beginner, the Intermediate, or the Advanced class.

Morning and afternoon snacks are provided.

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



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