D elegates met in San A ntonio to elect new  leaders as well as debate and establish T M A  policy on a num ber of issues critical to physicians and
m edical services (E M S) m edical directors in Texas.
positions w ithin the T M A : their patients.T he follow ing H C M S m em bers w ere elected to leadership
(see ariel on page 5 ).

TEXMED 2013

HCMS physicians make TMA policy at TEXMED 2013

On May 17-18, the Texas M edical A ssociation (T M A ) H ouse of
Delegates met in San Antonio to elect new leaders as well as debate and establish TMA policy on a num ber of issues critical to physicians and
their patients. The follow ing HCMS members were elected to leadership
positions within the TMA:
• Tom Garcia, M D  – re-elected to the T M A  Board of Trustees
• William S. Gilmer, M D  – elected AMA alternate delegate
In addition, the House also considered many resolutions brought by
HCMS, the H ouse of D elegates:
• Adopted a resolution calling on T M A  to oppose any effort by the
Texas M edical B oard (T M B) to change the current maintenance of
license. This item was successfully added as an amendment to a bill that
passed the 83 rd Texas L egislature and was signed by G overnor Perry.
• Referred for study a resolution to evaluate the role of em ergency
m edical services (EMS) medical directors in Texas.
• Referred for study a resolution to elim inate the m andatory service
requirem ent for non-citizen physicians upon receipt of their m edical
license. This item  w as successfully added as an am endm ent to a bill that
passed the 83 rd Texas L egislature and w as signed by G overnor Perry.
• R eferred for study a resolution to el im inate the m andatory service
requirem ent for non-citizen physicians upon receipt of their m edical
license. This item  w as successfully added as an am endm ent to a bill that
passed the 83 rd Texas L egislature and w as signed by G overnor Perry.
Harris C ounty M edical Society (H C M S) can help! Building and
enhancing your patient base is not easy. R egardless of w hether
you are a young physician developing your practice or an estab -
lished physician facing a retiring referral base, it is im portant to
know the tools available that can help you grow  your practice.
Many physicians assum e that the process is expensive and tim e
consuming. It does not have to be. HCMS can help.
Walk with a D oc!
W e w ill meet on W alk w ith a D oc, held every 2 nd Saturday at 9 a.m . W e w ill meet on
the surface lot of The H ealth M useum , at the corner of C raw ford and
H erm ann D r. The next w alk is A ug. 10, led by C arlos V ital, M D , (front on
the far right) speaking on food allergies, w ith his w ife Karla V ital, M D , (front far left).
See article on page 5 .

A free, family friendly evening for new and young members
Network for referrals and earn one hour of ethics credit dur-
ing the annual Harris County Medical Society New Member
& Young Physician Reception at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6, at
The Health Museum (John P. McGovern Museum of Health &
Medical Science), 1515 Hermann Drive. Everything is free,
including ethics CME seminar, child care, admission to the
m useum , food, and drinks.
At 6 p.m., let professional staff entertain your children in the
Kid Zone, while you enjoy light bites and drinks with colleagues in
a separate area. At 7:30 p.m., earn one hour of ethics credit
with the CME course, Reimbursement & Revenue: New
Possibilities, New Pitfalls, by Sarah Fontenot, BSN, JD, or contin-
ue networking and just relax.
The Kid Zone offers a fun-filled evening for your child. Your
little ones will enjoy food, arts and crafts, entertainment from
Jingles the clown and a guided tour of The Health Museum.
Children age five and older can enjoy the Kid Zone without a
parent; those younger than age five must be accompanied by an
adult at all times.
Parking is available on the street as well as the surface lot off
Hermann Drive. Parking fees m ay apply. R eservations are
strongly encouraged. Go to www.hcms.org and click on
Meeting RSVPs in the left-hand margin to register today. For
more information, contact Tom ise Martin at 713-524-4267, ext. 218, or tom ise_m artin@ hcm s.org.
Marketing on a shoestring budget
Want to develop your patient base and referral network? The
Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) can help! Building and
enhancing your patient base is not easy. Regardless of whether
you are a young physician developing your practice or an estab-
lishished physician facing a retiring referral base, it is important to
know the tools available that can help you grow your practice.
Many physicians assume that the process is expensive and time
consuming. It does not have to be. HCMS can help.
Attend the HCMS meeting, “Marketing 101: HCMS
Resources to Develop Your Patient Base,” at 6 p.m.
on Wednesday, July 31, at The John P. McGovern Museum of
Health & Medical Science (The Health Museum). The lecture
will offer you tools that will fit any budget. The event is free
of charge and is designated as an ethics CME. A light meal is
included and free parking is provided in the HCMS parking
garage. Registration is required. To register, go to www.hcms.
org and select in the left margin, Meeting RSVPs, then click on
Marketing 101.
The 83rd session of the Texas Legislature was a huge success for physicians and our patients. After taking a budget beating in 2011, along with everyone else, we came back strong with many legislative successes. Thank all of you who attended First Tuesdays in Austin and those who spoke with our legislators!

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) began the session with a series of initiatives centered on the goal of improving the health care system for all Texans. We definitely accomplished that. The Texas system is much better for physicians.

The unique scope of practice bill that TMA and the primary care community have worked on since the end of the 82nd session passed and set the stage for our successful session. This one piece of legislation proved that physicians were willing to take the hard work to improve our Texas care system. The new law firmly establishes the physician-led medical team as the operating model for Texas. At the same time, it sets up a more collaborative, delegated practice among physicians and advanced practice nurses and physician assistants. No other scope expansion bills passed this session.

Although Washington is increasing the red tape hassle for physicians, TMA succeeded in passing six bills that will reduce Texas physicians’ regulatory burden. One bill will allow physicians to renew their controlled substances registration online simply by tweaking his/her driver’s license. Two other bills greatly simplify compliance with the state’s medical privacy law. It took more than six years, but with TMA’s perseverance, we finally passed a bill into law which made Texas the only state to require non-citizen physicians to accept a mandatory service requirement in a medically underserved area as a condition of licensure. Because concerned HCMS physicians brought this to the attention of TMA, we were able to repeal a law which would have caused non-citizen physicians to practice in other states.

Improvements also were made in the state’s public health laws. Following in the footsteps of a law TMA helped pass in 2011, child care centers now must have a vaccination policy in place for all their workers. The Legislature agreed to continue funding the state program that provides data on our children, in an effort to address the state’s obesity problem. How was all this accomplished? It helped that the state received a tax windfall from new oil and gas production. However, most of the recognition goes to all of you who worked diligently educating the lawmakers that the damage wrought on the state health care system by their decisions. Your pleas, demands and cajoling were not ignored. This session proves that by getting involved, you can make a difference. There is still work to be done.

Although we had many victories in this session, we still have a lot of work to do. Texas’ population is expected to explode from 25 million to almost 45 million in 2040. How will we provide health care services to a population that is growing older, increasingly obese, and substantially larger? It may be unpardonable, we must address the lack of Medicaid expansion, sooner rather than later. We also must continue to work on fixing the dual eligible problem. This session the state agreed to pay the $140 deductible the beneficiary are still refusing to pay the 20 percent co-insurance, which Medicaid doesn’t cover. We must ensure that medicine-friendly legislators stay in office and Dr’s office. Dental Office and Physical therapy

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In Memoriam

Kec Kian Ang, MD, a radiation oncologist, died June 19. He had been a member of HCMC since 1992.

Robert L. Donald, MD, an internist, died June 15. He had been a member of HCMC since 1959.

Vincent J. Privitera, MD, a psychiatrist, died May 4. He had been a member of HCMC since 1977.

Edward A. Rizzolo, MD, a gynecologist, died June 6. He had been a member of HCMC since 1960.

William J. Schindler, MD, an endocrinologist specializing in diabetes and metabolism, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility, died April 26. He had been a member of HCMC since 1974.

Joseph C. Schoolar, MD, a psychiatrist, died May 4. He had been a member of HCMC since 1964.

Frank E. Smith, MD, an oncologist and internist, died May 23. He had been a member of HCMC since 1966.

John S. Weltzin Jr., MD, a surgical oncologist and general surgeon, died June 4. He had been a member of HCMC since 1958.

Sellers J. Thomas Jr., MD, a general surgeon, died May 27. He had been a member of HCMC since 1955.

Sidney Wallace, MD, a radiologist specializing in vascular and interventional radiology, died May 25. He had been a member of HCMC since 1967.

Medicaid Corner

Frequently asked questions

Medicaid Primary Care Physician Payment Increase

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), primary care, some specialties and some subspecialists who treat Medicaid patients will receive an increase in Medicaid payments to Medicare parity for select primary care services provided by primary care physicians (PCPs) and related subspecialists. To receive the higher payments, eligible physicians must submit a signed self-attestation form to the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP). The state has not set a deadline for returning attestation forms but will do so in the coming months. Physicians who return the attestation form after the deadline will not be eligible for increases retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013, although they will be eligible for higher payments through the end of 2014. For a list of frequently asked questions or to learn more about the Medicaid fee increase, go to www.hcms.org and click on Business/ Medicine/Medicaid.

Quality Corner

Avoid 1.5% PQRS penalty

Starting in 2015, physicians who are not participating in the Physicians Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and reporting quality data to Medicare will receive a 1.5 percent penalty on their traditional fee-for-service payments Medicare Part B allowed charges). This penalty will increase to 2 percent in 2016, based on PQRS reporting in 2014. Physicians who would like to avoid the 2015 penalty but do not want to participate in the incentive program in 2013 have two options:

• Sign up with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the administrative claims reporting option from July 15, 2013 through Oct. 15, 2013. This method will let CMS know to automatically analyze your claims data but you will not be able to receive an incentive payment.

• Report on at least one PQRS individual measure or measure group in 2013 through claims submission, a CMS-approved registry, or through your electronic health record (EHR) system.

Physicians reporting in 2013 can receive a 0.5 percent incentive on their 2013 traditional fee-for-service payments to be paid as a single bonus payment in 2014. To qualify for the incentive, physicians must satisfactorily report on at least three individual PQRS quality measures or one quality measure group using a CMS approved registry, EHR, or claims submission. The 0.5 percent incentive will remain in place for 2014 to be paid in 2015.

If you are in a group practice with more than 100 physicians, different rules will apply. Visit the Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) website, www.hcms.org, for more information.

Administrative claims reporting option


• Step 1: Register for a CMS IACS account at https://applications.cms.hhs.gov. This web portal has been open since June 3, 2013.

• Step 2: Beginning July 15, 2013, go to https://portal.cms.gov/ and select the PV PQRS option, near the bottom of the page, to register.

To receive email reminders on upcoming deadlines or important developments in quality, sign up for HCMS Direct by going to www.hcms.org, click on News, then click on HCMS Direct. For more information, visit www.hcms.org and go to Quality.

Source: American Medical Association and the CMS Quality Corner presented by the HCMS Health Care Quality Committee

Hot Member Benefit

HCMS Automobile Program

The HCMS Automobile Program is a no-cost member service, designed to spare you the aggravation and hassle normally associated with purchasing a car.

The service includes:

• Locating the vehicle of your choice at the best price;

• Arranging a test drive at your home, office or at the dealership; and

• Handling all the paperwork.

To learn more about the program visit www.hcms.org. Select HCMS Auto Program box on the upper right side of the page. You can also call Contact HCMS Auto Director, Phil Honebak at phone@hcms.org or 713-843-7185.

The program is open to members of HCMS, as well as family and staff.

August Calendar

Visit the calendar online at www.hcms.org

Monday 5
6:30 p.m., Houston Dermatological Society, Location: TBA

Tuesday 6
6 p.m., HCMS New Member & Young Physician Reception, The Health Museum (John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Sciences), 1515 Hermann Drive

Thursday 15
6:30 p.m., Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston, Location: TBA

Thursday 22
7 p.m., Houston Psychiatric Social, Location: TBA

1909 sq. ft. Medical Office in Katy with 4 examining rooms, next to Hospital, available for sub-lease in August. Please test your interest and contact 832-567-4972.

PT BICEP FP position in West Houston to work from 3-7 p.m., M-F. Please email CV’s to Reina@SFDCPC.com

Family Physicians: for a growing out-patient primary group in Houston. Both full and part time positions are available. Knowledge of EHR is helpful. Competitive pay, bonus and benefits. For consideration forward your CV to tennmarsh@dscmail.com or fax to 713-771-7376.

Shared Medical Office Space Available in Pearland: 2 medical exam rooms available. Fully staffed office. Electronic medical records. Flexible availability. Contact Stephanie E. Freeman, MD at 832-706-4603. 412-780-8849 or email freemans1@ymail.com

Board Certified or Eligible Pediatrician needed for new office location of expanding solo practice in Katy, TX. Full and part time positions are available. This woman owned group, work environment and benefits. Please test your interest and contact Dr. at 832-567-4972.

Very profitable, high volume medical practice on the northside of Houston for sale. Open to partnership with or organization or new doctors/practice. Practice has been in the same location for 23 years. Full staffed office as well as provide train- ing and transitional period of up to one year. Thirty years of history and over 5000 active patients. Average yearly census of 45,000 patients. Two employed physicians, one nurse practitioner (NP), one physical therapist assistant (PT) and support staff will remain with practice. Medical office building/real estate optional. Serious inquiries only. Please email nephrourology@gmail.com or call (832) 534-2289.

Gary A. DeBakey MD has now opened DeBakey Diet and Med Spa and is accepting new patients.

Services include Botox, Juvederm and Ideal Protein Weight Loss.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

Exam tables, exam lights, lobby furniture and office chairs. All in GREAT condition!

Please contact Gary DeBakey, MD at 281-381-1195 or info@tombalobobgyn.com

PRIME LOCATION/ENERGY CORRIDOR

Available immediately! Newly built Urgent Care Family Medicine Clinic, 3,000 sq. ft., red design facility. Located in affluent West Houston/Memorial/Energy Corridor area. high traffic street with excellent visibility. Easy access from I-10, Hwy 6 and Westheimer.

Fully equipped and furnished with a mayor, PT room, x-ray room, lab room, 2 medical exam rooms, two office spaces and the front for over night.

Ideal practice. Excellent location, easy traffic. Please consider a subleased shared space arrangement.

Please call 281-380-4400.

www.hcms.org / Harris County Physician Newsletter / July 15, 2013 / www.hcms.org

www.hcms.org / Harris County Physician Newsletter / July 15, 2013 /

3
To fulfill your diverse interests

You are invited to join the member organizations of the Harris County Medical Society Council of Specialty Societies (Council) to participate in a variety of cultural and community programs, network and gain continuing medical education (CME) credit.

The Council encourages member organizations, the American Lebanese Medical Association, the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, the Arab American Medical Association, the Chinese American Doctors Association of Houston, the Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston, the Houston Medical Forum, the Indian Doctors Association of Houston, the Iranian American Medical Association, the Medical Students Physicians Organization of Women, the Texas Association of Philippine Physicians, the Texas Medical Association International Medical Graduate Section, and the Vietnamese American Medical Association Greater Houston Chapter.

For more information, visit the HCMS website at www.hcms.org and select Links/International and Affiliated Medical Societies.

Business of Medicine

Simple steps to reduce "no shows"

The only way to ensure that all patients make it to the office for their scheduled appointments may be to send a mail reminder 1 to 2 weeks in advance; and even then, rest assured there will be one or two that still don't make it. So, how can you fix it?

One solution is to understand the reasons why patients may not show up. Some of the most common are: uninsured emergencies; they forget their appointment; wrote it down in a notebook and then lost it; the front office notified them, but they showed up anyway; or they showed up late and/or they lost their insurance coverage. Below are a few simple steps you can take to reduce no shows.

1. Call your patients the night before their appointment.
   - During the last 20 to 30 minutes of the practice day, it should be the job of one staffer (or more) to call each patient on the list for the following clinic day and remind them about their appointment.

2. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information on each patient.
   - Ensuring your patients are taken care of and you have their contact information is critical.

3. Have a policy for patients arriving late to their appointment, but do not post the threatening signs in the waiting room or allow your staff to threaten them.
   - Generally, patients are not late on purpose. By handling each case by a different protocol, you are helping patients and less likely to get stuck in traffic and think, "forget it, they won't see me anyway". This problem can occur when a staff member is eager for a lunch break and排s the patient away that shows up 15 minutes late. Instead of re scheduling them for after lunch or checking with a doctor to see if they could squeeze them in, the staff member turns the patient away.

4. If you have not begun making arrangements, talk with your colleagues, office staff, family members, medical risk management/liability carrier, and attorney, and put procedures in place. Make sure your patients are taken care of and you have the tools to do that.

For information about medical records and about closing a practice, please click on Ethics/Physician Information at the top of the HCMS website, www.hcms.org and then the links at the top of the page.

Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients

Take a Saturday morning to discover how improving personal wellness can make a real impact on patient outcomes.

At the Texas Medical Association local Houston ethics CME seminar, Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients—Linking Patient-Physician Relationships and Health Outcomes, you will learn tools to stimulate personal growth and wellness; incorporate mindfulness behaviors and ethics into daily life; integrate resilience and coping strategies to help manage the ethical challenges of a medical practice; and assimilate learned challenges to improve patient outcomes.

Designed for physicians of all specialties to help them identify the basic components of wellness and apply them into their professional and medical practices, this half-day Saturday morning seminar has been very well received by your colleagues around the state. Details are:

- Seminarian Physicians, Healthy Patients—Linking Patient-Centered Care to Patient-Physician Relationships and Health Outcomes
  - Date: Saturday, Sept. 7
  - Time: 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
  - Location: Courtyard Houston Medical Center, 7702 Main St.

CME: TMA designates this live activity for a maximum of 3 AAMA PRF Category 1 Credits of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

For more information and to register, please click on Ethics/Physician Information at the HCMS website, www.hcms.org, and then the link TMA Seminar: Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients at the top of the page. Register early and receive a discount off the on-site registration fee.

Source: Texas Medical Association Committee on Physician Health & Wellness

Source: Physicians Practice

Presented by the HCMS Board on Socioeconomics

HCMS Physicians make TMA policy at TEXMED 2013

Continued from page 1

- Adopted a resolution calling on TMA to oppose any efforts by the Texas Legislature to interfere with the free and full exchange of information between a physician and a patient.
- Adopted a resolution calling on TMA to support medical school efforts to provide advocacy education to medical students.
- Adopted a resolution asking TMA to carry a resolution to the AMA HOD requesting Bridges to Excellence align its validation processes with the National Committee on Quality Assurance recognition programs. This item was approved by the AMA.
- Adopted a resolution calling on TMA to study alternatives to incarceration for Texans with nonviolent behavioral issues and to devise ways to support the appropriate delivery of mental health care and substance abuse treatment as alternatives to incarceration.
- Adopted a resolution calling on TMA and appropriate state specialty societies to create and implement strategies regarding the treatment of pain, the responsible management of opioid analgesia, and prescribing habits that enhance education and awareness, with the goal of reducing the risk to patients and enhancing public safety.
- Rejected a resolution calling on TMA to support legislation that reduces red tape and administrative complexity because those efforts were already part of the successful lobbying activities for the Rx Legislative session, which passed numerous red tape reduction bills.

Key Principles of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility:

1. Call your patients the night before their appointment.
2. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information on each patient.
3. Have a policy for patients arriving late to their appointment, but do not post the threatening signs in the waiting room or allow your staff to threaten them.
4. If you have not begun making arrangements, talk with your colleagues, office staff, family members, medical risk management/liability carrier, and attorney, and put procedures in place. Make sure your patients are taken care of and you have the tools to do that.

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  - Date: Saturday, Sept. 7
  - Time: 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
  - Location: Courtyard Houston Medical Center, 7702 Main St.

CME: TMA designates this live activity for a maximum of 3 AAMA PRF Category 1 Credits of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

For more information and to register, please click on Ethics/Physician Information at the HCMS website, www.hcms.org, and then the link TMA Seminar: Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients at the top of the page. Register early and receive a discount off the on-site registration fee.

Source: Texas Medical Association Committee on Physician Health & Wellness

Source: Physicians Practice

Presented by the HCMS Board on Socioeconomics

Network and take action with physicians in your specialty

The members of the Harris County Medical Society Council of Specialty Societies invite interested physicians to join their organizations to network, gain continuing medical education (CME) credit and participate in a variety of community programs.

To get involved in issues important to you and your specialty, join one of the following member organizations:

- General Practitioner Society
- Hispanic-American Medical Society of Houston Allergy Society;
- Gulf Coast Hematology Society; Harris County Academy of Family Physicians; Harris County Chapter of the Texas Neurological Society; Houston Bariatric Society; Houston Dermatological Society; Houston Gastroenterological and Obstetrical Society; Houston Infectious Diseases Society; Houston Neurological Society; Houston Ophthalmological Society; Houston Orthopaedic Society; Houston Pediatric Society; Houston Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Society; Houston Psychiatric Society; Houston Radiological Society; Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists; Houston Society of Emergency Medicine; Houston Society of Otolaryngology; Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons; Houston Surgical Society; Houston Urological Society; Texas Gulf Coast Anesthesia Society; Texas Gulf Coast Colon and Rectal Surgical Society; and Texas Gulf Coast Gastroenterological Society.

For more information about the Council and its members, including contact information, meeting schedule, and membership requirements, visit the HCMS website at www.hcms.org, and select Link/Local Specialty Societies.

Walk with us and post flyer

Please join us and encourage your patients, friends, colleagues, and family to participate in the Walk with a Doc, held the 2nd Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. We will meet at the surface lot of The Health Museum, 1535 Hermann Dr. (corner of Crawford and Hermann). Please post a Walk with a Doc flyer in your office (located at www.hcms.org and click on Walk with a Doc on the home page).

Everyone is welcome. If you would like to lead a walk, contact Jennifer.Snyder@hcms.org.

What is a Walk with a Doc? Walk with doctors:

- Walk on a shaded woods (1.5 miles) in Hermann Park;
- Ask questions of the doctors;
- Hear a 5-minute presentation on health topics such as: allergies, weight loss, nutrition, exercise, skin cancer, etc.;
- Encourage people to make walking a part of their healthy lifestyle; and
- Provides for free healthy snacks and ice cold water.

- Be eligible to win a pedometer, t-shirt and The Health Museum pass.
- And it’s all free!

Open to everyone - Family and dog friendly

9 a.m., Saturday, July 13 - Brian Tison, MD, will give a five minute presentation on seasonal allergies
9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 10 - Carlos Vital, MD, will give a five minute presentation on food allergies.

Please join us and let others know how to lead a walk.

Patients and friends can sign up at the on the social networking site, http://www.meetup.com/WalkWithADocHouston/
To fulfill your diverse interests
You are invited to join the member organizations of the Harris County Medical Society Council of Internationally Affiliated Medical Specialty Societies (Council) to participate in a variety of cultural and community programs, network and gain continuing medical education (CME) credit.

The Council encourages member organizations, the American Lebanese Medical Association, the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, the Arab American Medical Association, the Chinese American Doctors Association of Houston, the Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston, the Houston Medical Forum, the Indian Doctors Association of Houston, the Iranian American Medical Association, the Korean American Physicians Organization of Women, the Texas Association of Philippine Physicians, the Texas Medical Association International Medical Graduate Section, and the Vietnamese American Medical Association Greater Houston Chapter

For more information, visit the HCMS website at www.hcms.org and select Links/International and Affiliated Medical Societies.

Presented by the HCMS Council of International and Affiliated Medical Societies.

Ethics Corner

If something happened to you…
We all like to think that this will never happen to us, but the reality is that it could become incapacitated or pass away suddenly. Are you prepared? Is your practice prepared? How would your patients find out? What arrangements are in place so they can easily obtain copies of their medical records? If you have not begun making arrangements, talk with your colleagues, office staff, family members, medical risk management/liability carrier, and attorney, and put procedures in place. Make sure your patients are taken care of and your practice is prepared.

For information about medical records and about closing a practice, please click on Ethics/Physician Information at the top of the HCMS website, www.hcms.org, at the top of the page.

Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients

Take a Saturday morning to discover how improving personal wellness can improve the wellness of your patients.

At the Texas Medical Association local Houston ethics CME seminar, Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients, you will learn evidence-based methods to stimulate personal growth and wellness; incorporate mindfulness behaviors and ethics into daily life; integrate resilience and coping strategies to help manage the ethical challenges of a medical practice; and assimilate learned changes to improve patient outcomes.

Designed for physicians of all specialties to help them identify the basic components of wellness and apply them into their roles and personal lives.

This half-day Saturday morning seminar has been very well received by your colleagues around the state. Details are:

- Seminar: Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients: Linking Patient-Centered Care to Patient-Physician Relationships and Health Outcomes
- Date: Saturday, Sept. 7
- Time: 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- Location: Courtyard Houston Medical Center, 7702 Main St.
- CME: TMA designs this live activity for a maximum of 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits” of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

For more information and to register, click on Ethics/Physician Information at the top of the page, then select the link TMA Seminar: Healthy Physicians, Healthy Patients at the top of the page. Register early and receive a discount on the off-site registration fee.

Source: Texas Medical Association Committee on Physician Health & Wellness

Ethics Corner is presented by the HCMS Board of Ethics.

Business of Medicine

Simple steps to reduce “no shows”

The only way to ensure that all patients make it to the office for their scheduled appointments may be to send a letter and a phone call. Many offices, and even then, rest assured they will be one or two that still don’t make it. So, how can you fix it?

One solution is to understand the reasons why patients may not show up. Of some of the most common are: unavoidable emergencies; they forgot their appointment; wrote it down on the calendar, but never followed through; they were late; the front office staff turned them away(!); they owed a balance and were concerned about being harassed by it; they did not have insurance and/or they lost their insurance coverage. Below are a few simple steps you can take to reduce no shows.

1. Call your patients the night before their appointment. During the last 20 to 30 minutes of the practice day, it should be the job of one staffer (or more) to call each patient on the list for the following clinic day and remind him or her about their appointment. This situation also illustrates the importance of not leaving work late.

2. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information on EHR patients. If you must call close for lunch, be sure not to lock the door!

3. Your patients on time, be honest, and offer apologies. If a patient has to reschedule, you have lost coverage, has balances, or other financial issues.

4. Of course, there will always be a small percentage of patients that are undependable, and they do not show up! It is a professional choice and a patient issue. The reason could be work or family, so make sure your patient knows that there is no penalty.

6. Make payment arrangements and offer options for patients that have lost coverage, have balances, or other financial issues. If patients are really concerned, you may want to consider rescheduling them for after lunch or check with a doctor to see if they could squeeze them in, the staffer turns the patient away. This situation also illustrates the importance of not leaving work late. A staggered schedule helps to reduce no shows.

Please join us and let us know if you would like to lead a walk. Patients and friends can sign up at on the social networking site, http://www.meetup.com/WalkWithaDocHouston/.

Presented by the HCMS Ad Hoc Personal Responsibility Committee.

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To get involved in issues important to you and your specialty, join one of the following member or specialty societies:

- The Houston Allergy Society; Gulf Coast Hematology Society; Harris County Academy of Family Physicians; Harris County Chapter of the Texas Neurological Society; Houston Bariatric Society; Houston Dermatological Society; Gubernatorial and Obstetrical Society; Houston Infections Diseases Society; Houston Neurological Society; Houston Ophthalmological Society; Houston Orthopaedic Society; Houston Pediatric Society; Houston Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Society; Houston Psychiatric Society; Houston Radiological Society; Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists; Houston Society of Emergency Medicine; Houston Society of Otolaryngology; Houston Society of Plastic Surgeons; Houston Surgical Society; Houston Urological Society; Texas Gulf Coast Anesthesia Society; Texas Gulf Coast Colon and Rectal Surgical Society; and Texas Gulf Coast Gastroenterological Society.

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Presented by the HCMS Ad Hoc Personal Responsibility Committee.
August Calendar
Visit the calendar online at www.hcms.org

Monday 5
6:30 p.m., Houston Dermatological Society, Location: TBA

Tuesday 6
6 p.m., HCMS New Member & Young Physician Reception, The Health Museum (John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science), 1515 Hermann Drive

Wednesday 7
6:30 p.m., Houston Infectious Diseases Society, The Oceanaire Seafood Room, 5011 Westheimer Road

Thursday 8
6:30 p.m., Health Museum of Houston, Location TBA

Friday 9
No meetings

Saturday 10
9 a.m., Walk with a Doc, The Health Museum (parking lot), 1515 Hermann Drive (corner of Hermann Drive & Crawford) — NEIGH LOCATION

Tuesday 15
6:30 p.m., Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston, Location: TBA

Thursday 28
7 p.m., Houston Psychiatric Society Social, Location: TBA

In Memoriam
Kic Kian Ang, MD, a radiation oncologist, died June 19. He had been a member of HCMS since 1992.
Robert L. Donald, MD, an internist, died June 15. He had been a member of HCMS since 1977.
Vincent J. Privitera, MD, a radiologist specializing in vascular and interventional radiology, died April 28. He had been a member of HCMS since 1974.
Edward A. Rizollo, MD, a gynecologist, died June 6. He had been a member of HCMS since 1960.
William J. Schindler, MD, an endocrinologist specializing in diabetes and metabolism, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility, died April 28. He had been a member of HCMS since 1974.
Josep C. Schooal, MD, a psychiatrist, died May 4. He had been a member of HCMS since 1964.
Frank E. Smith, MD, an oncologist and internist, died May 23. He had been a member of HCMS since 1964.
John S. Stedlin Jr., MD, a surgical oncologist and general surgeon, died June 4. He had been a member of HCMS since 1958.
Sellers J. Thomas Jr., MD, a general surgeon, died May 27. He had been a member of HCMS since 1965.
Sidney Wallace, MD, a radiologist specializing in vascular and interventional radiology, died May 25. He had been a member of HCMS since 1967.

Hot Member Benefit
HCMS Automobile Program

The HCMS Automobile Program is a no-cost member service, designed to spare you the aggravation and hassle normally associated with purchasing a car.

The service includes:
• Locating the vehicle of your choice at the best price;
• Handling all the paperwork.

To learn more about the program visit www.hcms.org. Select HCMS Auto Program box on the upper right side of the page. You can also call Contact HCMS Auto Director, Phil Horneak at phorneak@hcms.org or 713-843-7185.
The program is open to members of HCMS, as well as family and staff.

1909 sq. ft. Medical Office in Katy with 4 examining rooms, near to Hospital, available for sub-lease in August. Please test your interest and contact us at 713-567-4972.

PT BECIE FP position in West Houston to work from 3-7 pm, M-F. Please email CV’s to Rheumats@HCPOC.com

Family Physicians: for a graduating-out-patient primary group in Houston. Both full and part time positions are available. Knowledge of EMR is helpful. Competitive pay; bonus and benefits. For consideration forward your CV to femanines3@gmail.com or fax to 713-771-7376.

Shared Medical Office Space Available in Pearland! 2 medical exam rooms available. Fully staffed office. Electronic medical records. Flexible availability. Contact Stephanie E. Freeman, MD at 832-706-4603. 412-780-8484 or email freemansal1@yahoo.com

Board Certified or Eligible Pediatrician needed for new office located in expanding solo practice in Katy, TX. Full and part time positions are available. This position offers great opportunity for growth, work environment and benefits. Please test your interest and contact us at 832-567-4972.

Very profitable, high volume medical practice on the northside of Houston for sale. Open to partnership with organization or new doctor/practice. Please call or email Dr. Tami Smith, 832-351-1195 info@tomballobgyn.com

DeBakey Diet and Med Spa

Services include Botox, Juvederm and Ideal Protein Weight Loss.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:
Examination tables, exam lights, lobby furniture and office chairs. All in GREAT condition!

Please contact Gary DeBakey, MD if interested 281-351-1195 info@tomballobgyn.com

PRIME LOCATION/ENERGY CORRIDOR
Available immediately. Newly built Urgent Care Family Medicine Clinic, 3,000 sq. ft., modern design facility. Located in affluent West Houston/Memorial/Energy Corridor area, high traffic street with excellent visibility. Easy access from I-10, Hwy 6 and Westheimer.

Furnished and finished with a ready site, PT room, board room, medical office, x-ray, lab. 2400 sq. ft.

Commercial, Physician recruiting firm for physicians. May consider a subleased shared space arrangement.

Please call 281-360-4400.

Medicaid Corner
Frequently asked questions

Medicaid Primary Care Physician Payment Increase

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), primary care, some specialties and some sub-specialties who treat Medicaid patients will receive an increase in Medicaid payments to Medicare parity for select primary care services provided by primary care physicians (PCPs) and related subspecialists. To receive the higher payments, eligible physicians must submit a signed self-attestation form to the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP). The state has not set a deadline for returning attestation forms but will do so in the coming months. Physicians who return the attestation form after the deadline will not be eligible for increases retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013, although they will be eligible for higher payments through the end of 2014. For a list of frequently asked questions or to learn more about the Medicaid increase, go to www.hcms.org and click on Business of Medicine/Medicaid.

Quality Corner
Avoid 1.5% PQRS penalty

Starting in 2015, physicians who are not participating in the Physicians Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and reporting quality data to Medicare will receive a 1.5 percent penalty on their traditional fee-for-service patients (Medicare Part B allowed charges). This penalty will increase to 2 percent in 2016, based on PQRS reporting in 2014. Physicians who would like to avoid the 2015 penalty but do not want to participate in the incentive program in 2013 have two options:
• Sign up with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the administrative claims reporting option from July 15, 2013 through Oct. 15, 2013. This method will let CMS know to automatically analyze your claims data but you will not be able to receive an incentive payment.
• Submit on at least one PQRS individual measure or measure group in 2013 through claims submission, a CMS-approved registry, or through your electronic health record (EHR) system.

 Physicians reporting in 2013 can receive a 0.5 percent incentive on their 2013 traditional fee-for-service patients to be paid as a single bonus payment in 2014. To qualify for the incentive, physicians must satisfactorily report on at least three individual PQRS quality measures or one quality measure group using a CMS approved registry, EHR, or claims submission. The 0.5 percent incentive will remain in place for 2014 to be paid in 2015.

If you are in a group practice with more than 100 physicians, different rules will apply. Visit the Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) website, www.hcms.org, for more information.

Administrative claims reporting option


• Step 1: Register for a CMS IACS account at https://applications.cms.hhs.gov/. This web portal has been open since June 3, 2013.
• Step 2: Beginning July 15, 2013, go to https://portal.cms.gov/ and select the PQRS /V PQRS option, near the bottom of the page, to register.

To receive email reminders on upcoming deadlines or important developments in quality, sign up for HCMS Direct by going to www.hcms.org, click on News, then click on HCMS Direct. For more information, visit www.hcms.org and go to Quality.

Source: American Medical Association and the CMS Quality Corner presented by the HCMS Health Care Quality Committee

Congratulations!

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) would like to thank Greg Bernica, executive vice president and CEO, for 30 years of dedicated serv- ice to physicians and their patients. He has helped to grow the membership to more than 11,000 physicians and medical students as well as guid- ed HCMS during challenging times.
The 83rd session of the Texas Legislature was a huge success for physicians and our patients. After taking a budget beating in 2011, along with everyone else, we came back strong with many legislative successes. Thank all of you who attended First Tuesdays in Austin and those who spoke with our legislators!

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) began the session with a series of initiatives centered on the goal of improving the health care system for Houstonians. We definitely accomplished that. The Texas system is much better for physicians.

The unique scope of practice bill that TMA and the primary care medical societies had worked to pass since the end of the 82nd session passed and set the stage for our successful session. This one piece of legislation proved that physicians were willing partners in improving our Texas health care system. The new law firmly establishes the physician-led medical team as the operating model for Texas. At the same time, it sets up a more collaborative, delegated practice among physicians and advanced practice nurses and physician assistants. No other scope expansion bills passed this session.

Although Washington is increasing the red tape hassle for physicians, TMA succeeded in passing six bills that will reduce Texas physicians' regulatory burdens. One bill will allow physicians to renew their controlled substances registration at the pharmacy of their choice. Two other bills greatly simplify compliance with the state's medical privacy law.

Another bill lets physicians sign in to your office simply by swiping his/her driver's license. Two other bills greatly simplify compliance with the state's medical privacy law.

The Republicans have made a concerted effort to improve the health care system of Texas. We definitely accomplished that. The Texas Department of Insurance now has the legal authority to regulate the Texas system is much better for physicians.

Two critical victories came in the form of bills that improved the dollar value, transparency, and access of programs for commercial and Medicaid contracts. Additionally, the Texas Department of Insurance now has the legal authority to regulate these “silent PPOs.”

On the economic front, our work succeeded in reducing the financial burden many physicians face. A small business tax relief bill was passed that will allow primary care physicians to finally get a tax break for their vaccine stock. We passed a bill that provides tax credits for exempted medical supplies, such as intravenous systems. Finally, most important, the 2005 tax exemption for physicians who accept Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, workers' compensation and other government programs was protected and remains unchanged.

Not only did TMA advocate successfully to have all these good bills passed, TMA advocated successfully in ensuring that EVERY BAD bill we opposed was stopped.

The system is better for patients.

In 2011, the Texas Legislature decimated funding for physician education, even with TMA and the county societies investing legislators to consider the impact on patient access.

All articles in The Harris County Physician Newsletter that mention HCMS’ stance on state legislation are defined as “legislative advertising,” according to Texas Code of Admin, §300.027. This law requires disclosure of the name and address of the person who contracts with the printer to publish legislative advertising in The Harris County Physician Newsletter. Greg Bemica, executive vice president, Harris County Medical Society, 1515 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77030-6515.

Find us online: www.hcms.org Presiding Officer
Russell W. H. Kridel
President
2 Harris County Physician Newsletter / July 15, 2013 / www.hcms.org

83rd Legislative wrap-up

President’s Page

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HCMS PHYSICIANS MAKE TMA POLICY AT TEXMED 2013

On May 17-18, the Texas Medical Association (TMA) House of Delegates met in San Antonio to elect new leaders as well as debate and establish TMA policy on a number of issues critical to physicians and their patients. The following HCMS members were elected to leadership positions within the TMA:

- Tom Garcia, MD – re-elected to the TMA Board of Trustees
- William S. Gilmer, MD – elected AMA alternate delegate

In addition, the House also considered many resolutions brought by county societies from across the state. On matters brought before it by HCMS, the House of Delegates:

- Referred for study a resolution to evaluate the role of emergency medical directors in Texas
- Referred for study a resolution to eliminate the mandatory service requirement for non-citizen physicians upon receipt of their medical license. This item was successfully added as an amendment to a bill that passed the 83rd Texas Legislature and was signed by Governor Perry.
- Adopted a resolution calling on TMA to oppose any effort by the Texas Medical Board (TMB) to change the current maintenance of licensure requirements
- Referred for study a resolution to evaluate the role of emergency medical services (EMS) medical directors in Texas

HCMS PHYSICIANS MAKE TMA POLICY AT TEXMED 2013 on page 5