Dear Members,

Looks like we'll be welcoming Spring with a little snow.

1) Medicare PQRS Update: March 31 is the last day for Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs) using XML format to submit PQRS data. This is also the last day for Qualified Registries to submit PQRS data. Submissions must be received by 8 p.m. ET. Meanwhile, CMS has extended the application for the Meaningful Use hardship exception. Go [here](#) for more information.

2) In response to public health concerns over the adverse impact of opioid misuse, ACP has developed new patient education resources related to chronic pain management and safe opioid use. ACP also issued a statement of support for the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. The CDC included a number of ACP recommendations made in response to a mid-January draft CDC guideline, including acknowledgment of the current limited, but emerging evidence related to the treatment of pain using opioids, recognition of individual patient needs, and recognition of coverage and workforce barriers to approaches to non-opioid treatment of pain.

3) In case you missed it, here is a memo from Executive Vice President Steven Weinberger about MOC.

4) This is the second call for Chapter Award nominations. Please click on the link to submit a nomination. To aid the selection committee, provide as much detail as possible in support of the nomination.

   - Volunteerism and Community Service Award
   - Henry C. Gift Distinguished Internist Award
   - George F. Thornton Outstanding Teacher Award

5) March 31 is the date of the SIM Symposium: "From Accountable Care to Accountable Communities: How Connecticut's State Innovation Model Initiative is Driving Reform" which will be held at Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University. For more information, click [here](#).

6) I hope to see you at Internal Medicine 2016, in Washington!

Best regards,
Rob Nardino