NEWS FROM THE GA ACP

New Georgia law pertaining to use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program — enrollment required by Jan. 1, 2018

ACP
From June 15: The purpose of this communication is to inform you of a new Georgia law requiring use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. This new law is a result of bill HB 249 which Gov. Deal signed on May 4, 2017. It impacts all Georgia physicians/prescribers requiring use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The bill was designed to address opioid abuse in the state. The resulting law requires reviewing PDMP information on a patient when prescribing a controlled substance or a benzodiazepine beginning July 1, 2018. READ MORE

The rising trend of nonphysician provider utilization in healthcare

MGMA
From Aug. 18: NPP — A nonphysician provider is a specially trained and licensed individual who can provide medical care and billable services. NPPs include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives and other healthcare providers. This report will focus on the nurse practitioner (NP) and the physician assistant (PA) as NPPs. READ MORE

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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Hiring for Hospitalists
Envision Physician Services is hiring for Hospitalist at Memorial Satilla Health in Waycross, GA. Come join our team of exceptional hospitalists today!

MOC-limiting laws spreading to additional states

Medical Economics
From Aug. 3: At least 21 states now have passed or considered bills to protect physicians who choose not to fulfill American Board of Medical Specialties requirements for Maintenance of Certification from losing their hospital privileges, insurance eligibility and/or state licensure. As of press date, three states had passed bills this year addressing the requirement to maintain certification for a variety of purposes, in addition to the five that did so in 2016. READ MORE

Georgia Senate gives final approval on medical marijuana expansion

AJC
From April 6: The Senate on March 30, gave final passage to a measure to expand Georgia’s medical marijuana program. By a vote of 45 to 6, Senators approved a revised version of Senate Bill 16, sending it to Gov. Nathan Deal for his signature. The bill would make six conditions eligible for treatment with a limited form of cannabis oil allowed in Georgia: Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, autism, epidermolysis bullosa, peripheral neuropathy and Tourette’s syndrome. Patients in hospice care also could possess the oil. READ MORE

EHRs eating up half of doctors' workday, and they are not getting paid for it

Healthcare IT News
From April 13: Doctors spend about half of their EHR time during patient encounters, according to new findings published in Health Affairs. The other half is consumed by desktop medicine tasks for which they do not get reimbursed. “Physicians logged an average of 3.08 hours on office visits and 3.17 hours on desktop medicine each day,” the authors wrote. “Over time, log records from physicians showed a decline in the time allocated to face-to-face visits, accompanied by an increase in time allocated to desktop medicine.” READ MORE