

Dear Colleagues: Thank you for your membership in ACP. Here is a brief list of resources and upcoming events.

Nominations for the open MN-ACP Council position

If you are interested in running in the election for a MN ACP Council position, please submit your CV to the Nominations Committee at Minnesota.ACP@gmail.com along with the completed short biographical form and statements at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MNACP2016> by **May 10, 2016**. One position for a 3-year term will be on the ballot. The Nominations Committee will review submissions and will announce the slate of candidates by May 25, 2016. The short biographical form and statement of the candidates will be posted online for members' review. The election results will be announced by June 15, 2016.

We encourage Minnesota internists throughout the state and with a variety of areas of expertise to consider expanding their professional lives and further improving medicine in Minnesota by this opportunity.

IM2016 in Washington DC

This year, we are heading to our nation's capital! Over 130 Minnesota internists, residents and medical students are attending this year's ACP Internal Medicine 2016 Meeting and/or Leadership Day in Washington D.C. from May 5 through May 7 in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Our Minnesota Chapter is partnering with the North Dakota chapter and the Mayo Alumni Association for a special reception on Friday, May 6th from 6-7:30pm at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

HIT Committee Update

Thank you to Dr. Deepti Pandita of the MN-ACP HIT Committee for this update. Based on feedback from providers and other stakeholders, CMS is proposing to incorporate the MU program into the Merit-based Payment System (MIPS) "in a way that makes it more patient-centric, practice-driven and focused on connectivity. This new program within MIPS is named "Advancing Care Information", -increasing flexibility, improving interoperability, and creating user-friendly technology for physician workflow and interactions with patients. Here is what we know so far:

1. This is a **proposed** rule available for public comment (comments due in 60 days which is end of June);
2. This new proposed program only applies to Medicare eligible professionals (hospitals are not included in this proposal but CMS is discussing 'potential opportunities');
3. The proposal, if finalized, would replace the current MU program and reporting beginning January 1, 2017; and
4. Some simplifications:
 - Removes 'all or nothing' MU compliance and offers flexibility for providers to achieve success to meet program requirements

- Implies that providers can meet the program 'as a group' rather than individually
- Removes objectives (CPOE and Clinical Decision Support)

Important Information on Zika Virus Testing from the Minnesota Department of Health

- Seeing a suspect Zika case or an asymptomatic pregnant woman who traveled to Zika outbreak area? Call MDH Vectorborne Disease Unit at [651-201-5414](tel:651-201-5414) or [1-877-676-5414](tel:1-877-676-5414) to discuss the case and possible testing for the virus.
- Seeing a pregnant patient who has tested positive for Zika virus? MDH will call you to discuss enrollment of the patient into the CDC Zika virus pregnancy registry.
- Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/zika/index.html

ACP Resources

- ACP has launched a newly rebuilt and redesigned <https://www.acponline.org>. The site features a contemporary design that incorporates task-based navigation and provides quicker access to features that ACP members use most. The new site is also mobile- and touch-friendly, with a responsive interface that automatically optimizes for all devices (e.g., desktop, smartphone, tablet). Take a moment to explore the [new site](#) today.
- 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](#).

Other Resources and Information

- Help fix Minnesota's Prior Authorization system for prescription medications- Share your story about a recent problem you or your patients have had with prescription medicine prior authorization by sending a brief email to dhauser@mnmed.org More information on this statewide advocacy initiative is at <http://www.fixpanow.com> Information provided by the Minnesota Medical Association

Upcoming events:

- **May 3-4, 2016** ACP Leadership Day in Washington, DC www.acpservices.org/leadership-day/what-leadership-day.
- **May 5 -May 7, 2016** ACP National Meeting ("IM2016") in Washington, DC. Information at <http://im2016.acponline.org/>
- **May 6, 2016-** MN-ACP, ND-ACP and Mayo Alumni reception at the Marriott in Washington DC, 6:00-7:30pm
- **October 27-28, 2016** MN-ACP Annual Scientific Session at the Minneapolis Convention Center

How can we better serve you? Please contact me with questions or thoughts on how the MN ACP can serve you. John B. Bundrick, MD, FACP Governor, MN ACP at bundrick.john@mayo.edu