Medicaid Reform Work Begins in Earnest

With three years of work already behind us, this year’s passage of a Medicaid reform plan by the NC General Assembly marks just a mid-point in the effort to address cost-unpredictability of Medicaid in the state budget. Implementation could take up to three years or more, with the enrollment beginning as early as January 2018. This sets into motion the even more challenging task of implementing the new design, which allows the state to contract with three statewide managed care companies and up to 10 regional “provider-led entities” (PLEs) comprised of health systems, hospitals and/or physicians. Our number one priority through this process will be to ensure that physicians and patient care are not adversely affected by new policies and regulations.

Transition to the new NC Medicaid has begun in earnest and the first major deadline is quickly approaching. The first of many steps is approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of a State Plan Amendment. Rick Brajer, Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, is required to report to the NC General Assembly on this issue in March 2016. The federal approval process may take anywhere between six to 18 months.
Dr. James Bryan II Receives 2015 T. Reginald Harris Memorial Award

James Bryan II, MD, MPH, retired internist and former UNC School of Medicine professor, is the recipient of the distinguished 2015 T. Reginald Harris Memorial Award. This year marks the 17th anniversary that the award has been given by The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME) in honor of the life and career of founding board member, T. Reginald Harris, MD. The award was presented during the North Carolina Medical Society’s 2015 Annual Meeting on October 23 and accepted by Dr. Bryan’s brother, Dr. Edwin Bryan.

Described as teacher, physician, role model, leader, pioneer and mentor, Dr. Bryan’s 60-year career included practices in hematology/oncology and primary care geriatrics. He also was a recognized instructor and research fellow. Dr. Bryan held a dual professorship in the UNC-CH Departments of Medicine and Social and Community Medicine and was an active mentor and adviser to his students.

Although retired from medicine, Dr. Bryan remains actively involved in his community by volunteering at the free Samaritan Health Center in Durham, the Chapel Hill homeless shelter, the First Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, and the Hospice at UNC. Dr. Bryan holds a bachelor’s degree from Davidson College, a medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and a master’s in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NC,ACP Welcomes 17 New Fellows!

Seventeen North Carolina internists have been elected to ACP Fellowship since July 1, 2015. Election to Fellowship continues our tradition of honoring excellence in the practice of medicine. ACP Fellows are authorized to use the letters “FACP” after their names in conjunction with their professional life as long as their ACP membership remains current. They enjoy the right to hold office and propose candidates for Membership and Fellowship.

Congratulations on your achievement!

Laila A Awny, MD, FACP (Asheville)
Debra Bynum, MD, FACP (Cary)
Dipendra Chaudhary, MBBS, FACP (Winston Salem)
Kathleen M Elliott, MD, FACP (Kernersville)
Roger R Hatharasinghe, MD, FACP (Mooresville)
Noel Ivey, MD, FACP (Asheville)
Carl N Kraus, MD, FACP (Raleigh)
Wanda C Lakey, MD, FACP (Cary)
Aklilu M Metaferia, MD, FACP (Winterville)
Ibikunle A Ojebuoboh, MD, FACP (Jacksonville)
Joseph C Okoye, MBBS, FACP (Charlotte)
Anne F Phelps, MD, FACP (Cary)
Shana P Ratner, MD, FACP (Carrboro)
Joseph A Saracino, MD, FACP (Kinston)
Zainab Shahid, MD, FACP (Charlotte)
Juan G Verastegui, MD, FACP (Greenville)
Christine A Williams, MD, FACP (Chapel Hill)
Are YOU interested in advancing to Fellowship?
To review the pathways for advancement to Fellowship, please visit www.acponline.org/facp. The overriding considerations for advancement are excellence in internal medicine, continued professional development, and a commitment to the profession and community. Please take a moment to review the pathways to determine which is most appropriate for you.

If you need more information about any of the requirements, or if you have questions about your eligibility or finding local sponsors, please contact ACP Fellowship Administrator at 800-523-1546, ext. 2709, or via e-mail at mbrservices@acponline.org.

Initiatives and Programs for Early Career Physicians
Submitted by Dr. Richard Wardrop

Research, Innovations, and Clinical Vignette Poster Competition for Early Career Physicians
The NC,ACP will pilot a poster competition for early career physicians during the upcoming 2016 NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session, February 26-27, in Greensboro. There are three categories of submissions: Research, Innovations, or Clinical Vignette.

- Abstracts can only be submitted electronically online: https://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/nc/abstract15ecp.htm

The NC,ACP encourages early career physicians to participate in the NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session; The NC,ACP will host a luncheon for early career physicians and hopes to build a network of local ECP clusters throughout the state with the goal of fostering meaningful networking and social activities for our members.

Members who are interested in getting more involved with NC ECP, acting as a local champion within your region for ECP activities, or representing the state chapter ECP group, please contact NC,ACP Deputy Director Denna Suko or Dr. Richard Wardrop, who is a member of the ACP Council for Early Career Physicians (CECP).

News from the ACP Council for Early Career Physicians
The CECP continues its focus on promoting wellness, eliminating burnout and expanding mentoring opportunities for early career physicians. CECP members recently participated in the first ever cohort of ACP Wellness Champions Training. The NC chapter will have programing around this important topic at the 2016 NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session.

Additionally CECP members collaborated with the ACP Board of Governors and ACP Board of Regents in a pilot program entitled “Master and Mentors.” This exciting program will provide brief but dynamic video interviews centered on topics of interest to early career physicians,
including wellness, work-life balance, mentorship, developing a culture of High Value Care, and advice for early career physicians engaged in medical student and resident education.

Click for a sneak peek at some sample videos.

The ACP defines early career physicians as those physicians within 16 years of medical school graduation. Because this is recognized as a critical time in the professional and personal growth for many physicians, the ACP has created and supported the national Council of Early Career Physicians.

**High Value Care Update**
Submitted by Dr. Richard Wardrop

With support in part from NC,ACP Educational Grants, NC Chapter members are conducting ongoing research and projects on a variety of topics, and they are sharing their work with others at the local, state and national levels.

Drs. James “Matt” Blackwell (Charlotte), Richard Wardrop (Chapel Hill), Debra Bynum (Cary) and Carolyn Avery (Durham) (pictured) recently used the funds to develop and present a workshop around High Value Care at an American Association of Medical Colleges meeting.

The workshop was a collaboration of two funded projects, “High Value Care Faculty Development Curriculum: Promoting HVC Across the Continuum,” which aims to address the challenges of providing HVC instruction and delivering an HVC curriculum for medical students and residents, and “Improving Cost-Conscious Healthcare Awareness through a Novel Morning Report Structure,” which has the long-term goal of developing an HVC smart phone application to support the reduction of inappropriate overuse of healthcare resources while providing safe, high-quality care.

Additional Chapter members have successfully completed projects around High Value Care, have ongoing projects, or are teaching High Value Care in a variety of settings.

As outlined in the recent ACP White Paper, “Teaching High-Value, Cost-Conscious Care to Residents: The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine–American College of Physicians Curriculum,” promoting High Value Care continues to be a priority of the ACP.

The ACP has joined forces with several large educational organizations, including the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine as well as Med-U to promote resources for internists of all ages as well as residents, and students. More information can be found on the ACP website.
NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session -- Registration Now Open!

The 2016 NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session will be held February 26-27 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. Following the successful format of our 2015 meeting, the program will again feature concurrent sessions geared toward *Inpatient Medicine* and *Outpatient Medicine*. The NC,ACP Annual Scientific Session offers quality, convenience and collegiality without the hassle and costs of long-distance travel. We hope to see you there!

For room reservations, contact the Grandover Resort at (800) 472-6301.

Medical students, residents and fellows-in-training are encouraged to participate in the poster competition. It’s more than just an opportunity to showcase your work! The best posters in the categories of Clinical or Basic Research, Clinical Vignette, Quality Improvement, High Value Care, and Student Poster will each receive a cash award of $300 and reimbursement of travel expenses to the 2016 ACP Internal Medicine Meeting to present their poster. Best Overall Poster will receive an additional cash award and reimbursement of travel expenses to the 2016 ACP Internal Medicine Meeting to present the winning poster. Abstract submissions are due by Friday, December 11.

UNC medical student Rita Kuwahara was recognized the best Student Poster at the 2015 NC,ACP meeting. Her poster, "Understanding the Stories of "Super-Utilizer" Patients through Hotspotting on Tobacco Road: An Interprofessional Narrative-Based Approach to Reduce Rehospitalizations and Provide High Value Cost Conscious Care," went on to win the High Value Care/Quality Improvement/Patient Safety category in the ACP’s Internal Medicine 2015 Abstract Competition.

Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter Rewards Program 2015-2016

As an expansion of the national Recruit-a-Colleague program, rewards are given to chapters that encourage local level peer-to-peer recruitment. This program is an excellent opportunity for chapters to build membership while earning chapter revenue and helping members earn dues credits.

The national Recruit-a-Colleague program rewards successful recruiters with dues credits for each new full Member or Physician Affiliate member recruited (up to the amount of annual dues) and a chance to win a trip to the annual Internal Medicine meeting. The program runs each year from April 1 through March 1.
The chapter program still rewards the individual recruiter as stated above, but it also:

- Provides a $100 reward to the recruiter's chapter for each new member recruited
- Provides one free registration to Internal Medicine 2017 for the chapter per every 10 new members recruited
- Provides an additional $25 reward to chapters for each of the first two years that a new member who is recruited through this program renews his/her membership

Share this specially coded ACP 2015-2016 Membership Application with your colleagues and let us know that you’re participating!

New NCMS Governance System Makes Board Accountable to YOU
Reprinted with permission from the North Carolina Medical Society

The newly updated North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) constitution and bylaws, reflecting the House of Delegates recent decisions to make the NCMS Board of Directors directly accountable to the Society's membership, has been posted on our website for easy reference.

In keeping with this change in governance, following is the schedule of upcoming Board meetings, which will now be held throughout the state to make NCMS leadership meetings more accessible to the membership wherever they practice. Watch the NCMS Bulletin for details on each meeting as the date approaches.

- Jan. 8-9, 2016 in Raleigh
- March 18-19, 2016 in Wilmington
- May 13-14, 2016 in Cary
- July 15-16, 2016 in Charlotte
- Sept. 15-18, 2016, NCMS Annual Meeting/M3 Conference in Greensboro
- Dec. 3, 2016 in Raleigh (tentative)

If you have an issue you’d like to bring to a Board member’s attention in the meantime, please go to [the NCMS] website to contact the NCMS Board.

U.S. Rep. David Rouzer Establishes the Congressional Primary Care Caucus

U.S. Representative David Rouzer (R-NC) is working to address the challenges facing primary care. Rep. Rouzer has teamed up with U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) to establish the
Congressional Primary Care Caucus. The Caucus, which includes members of Congress from both political parties, aims to advance public policy that establishes, promotes, and preserves a well-trained, high-quality primary care workforce and delivery system as the foundation of our nation’s health care system. Rep. Rouzer was elected in November 2014 in the 7th Congressional District, which extends from Smithfield to Wilmington.

Dr. Edgardo Maldonado Wins iPad Drawing

Edgardo Maldonado, MD (Kernersville) is enjoying a new iPad thanks to the NC,ACP. Dr. Maldonado is one of more than 400 physicians participating in the Chapter’s recent membership survey. His winning ticket was pulled on October 23 by ACP Governor Peter R. Lichstein, MD. The Governor’s Advisory Council is drawing on feedback received from survey to guide its strategic planning efforts.

Members of the ACP Governor’s Advisory Council met on October 22-23 to conduct strategic planning and Chapter business. They gathered around to pull the winning entry for the iPad raffle prize. Congratulations, Dr. Maldonado!

Managing Social Media in a Busy Healthcare Practice

featuring

Janet M. Kennedy

North Carolina Medical Society Foundation, in cooperation with the North Carolina Medical Group Managers, invites you to join us to discuss social media in health care. Committing to a presence in social media is not as simple as setting up a Facebook page. Many health care practices are worried that it will be difficult to maintain an active and effective presence in social media. In this webinar, presenter Janet Kennedy will share practical tips and suggestions for developing, scheduling, tracking and managing your social media sites.

*Time will be reserved for questions and answers within the last fifteen minutes of the presentation.

November 18, 2015 ~ 12:00 pm to 1:00pm

Janet M. Kennedy, is the host of the "Get Social Health" podcast, sharing best practice stories and interviews about social media in healthcare. She has interviewed medical futurists, healthcare practitioners actively using social media as well as ePatients, digital health advocates and entrepreneurs. Janet has produced and presented webinars on healthcare social media for numerous organizations.

This webinar is free but you must be registered to attend. Space is limited so register early!

After you register, you will receive an emailed confirmation with webinar and phone-in instructions.

Continuing education credit may be granted through your professional organization (MGMA, PAHCOM, AHIMA, etc.). Please self submit for these organizations.