Colleagues - Hope you are enjoying our Vermont summer. Some updates, both local and national.

Advocacy:

As you know, much is happening in Congress and ACP is involved with every new health-related proposal. Attached below is the letter sent by ACP in Opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) of 2017. ACP’s Advocacy Response is based on 10 well-articulated principles (posed as questions) that begin with First, Do No Harm. These were first posted in January 2017 and ACP uses them to evaluate every new Congressional proposal and developing ACP’s position.

1. Will persons who currently have coverage from the ACA, either through Medicaid or qualified health plans offered through the exchanges, be able to keep it without interruption, loss of benefits, and/or eligibility?
2. What will be the impact of any proposals to change the current law premium and cost-sharing subsidies to buy a qualified health plan through the exchanges, for persons currently covered through the ACA as well as future eligible persons?
3. Will there be sufficient incentives for younger persons to buy coverage and participate in the insurance pools, without causing harm to older and sicker patients?
4. Will all qualified health plans continue to be required to offer essential evidence-based benefits comparable to, or better than, current law?
5. Will insurers continue to be prohibited from charging higher premiums to women based on their gender?
6. Will proposed changes to Medicaid continue to ensure that lower-income patients, both adults and children, have access to coverage that is comparable to or better than under current law?
7. Will protections against discrimination for people with pre-existing conditions be comparable or better than under current law?
8. Will current law prohibitions against insurers putting annual and lifetime limits on coverage be maintained?
9. Will current law programs to promote public health and prevention, support research and funding of innovative value-based payment and delivery models, support research on the comparative effectiveness of different treatments, and support primary care training programs be continued, expanded or curtailed?
10. Considering all potential changes, will the total number of people who have coverage that includes essential evidence-based benefits, at a cost that is affordable to them (premiums and out-of-pocket costs after subsidies are applied), and the protections against insurers discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions or imposing limits on coverage, be comparable to, better,
or worse than available under current law?

Vermont Chapter Annual Meeting:

This year's meeting has an outstanding agenda and will be at Trapp Family Lodge, in Stowe, on October 20, 2017. Mark your calendars!

Resources from National ACP:
New Patient Education Programming via the Wellness Network
ACP and The Wellness Network are partnering to deliver new patient education programming that will be available via The Wellness Network's Patient Channel, an in-hospital TV network and online portal.

ACP members will have access to the Patient Channel library of over 107 disease and medication management, wellness and patient safety videos that can be viewed by patients during an office visit or at home. Programming topics include heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, COPD, joint replacement, medication management, and more. To learn more, visit The Wellness Network page.

Call for Spring 2018 Board of Governors Resolutions:

Are you concerned about a practice or clinical issue or have a policy idea you’d like to suggest? If so, you might consider submitting a resolution idea and we will discuss at our next chapter council meeting. Submit your idea or theme to me prior to the end of August.

Please Contact Me!

I am here to serve the needs of Vermont ACP members. In addition, all state Governors have the opportunity to bring Chapter needs and concerns to national Board of Governor's meetings twice a year. Please email me anytime at jan.carney@med.uvm.edu

Jan
Jan K. Carney, MD, MPH, FACP
Governor, Vermont Chapter ACP

Attachments:
NOTE: The links below will direct your browser to the location where the documents attached to this email have been posted.

Letter to Senate Leadership Opposing Better Care Reconciliation Act 2017