



## e-News for November 13, 2009

### IAFP News

#### **IAFP Announces new committee structure for 2010**

The following are the new committees to be added in 2009-2010

Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Connectivity Committee – Lead the IAFP’s involvement with state, regional and local efforts to bring electronic health records, electronic prescribing, and connectivity to members’ practices. In addition to identifying technical assistance resources, the committee will help members to understand the federal, state and local financial incentives for “meaningful use of EHR, e-prescribing, and other connectivity tools.”

Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Committee – Develop plans and implement strategies for helping members to implement PCMH activities in their practices. Plans should be developed for marketing information to members via the IAFP website, hosting a PCMH conference in second quarter 2010, and linking members to TranforMED and other vendors who can assist with transformation to PCMH practices.

Private Sector Advocacy – Advocate for family physicians with private sector payors in Illinois such as Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Cigna, Humana and UnitedHealthcare. Coordinate activities with AAFP Private Sector Advocacy initiatives.

**Below is the full list of 2010 committees, task forces and interest groups. Appointments will be made by late January so groups can begin their work by February. If you are interested in serving on a committee, send an e-mail to [iafp@iafp.com](mailto:iafp@iafp.com) with your contact information and the committee(s) you’d like to join.**

AAFP Resolutions  
Margaret Kirkegaard, MD, chair

Bylaws  
Tina Brueschke, M.D., chair

CME  
Christine Mueller, MD, chair

EHR and Connectivity  
Dennon Davis, M.D., chair

Finance  
Deborah Edberg, M.D., chair

Family Medicine Educators  
Judi Gravdal, M.D., chair

Government Relations  
Carolyn Lopez, MD, chair

Leadership Development  
Steven Knight, M.D., chair

Membership and Member Services  
Chinni Pulluru, M.D., chair

*New!* PCMH  
Mayank Shah, M.D., chair

*New!* Private Sector Advocacy  
Matthew Johnson, M.D., chair

Public Health  
Rashmi Chugh, MD, chair

Public Relations  
Kristin Drynan, MD, chair

## ***IAFP Annual Meeting***

Friday-Saturday December 4-5, 2009

Oak Brook Marriott Hotel

**\$40/per day for CME**

**Register Online at [www.iafp.com](http://www.iafp.com)**

### **Annual Meeting Highlights include**

- AAFP Live!** CME program on Friday morning (separate registration required)\*
- Eight (8) hours** of IAFP top-notch CME over two days (full schedule and topics are on our web site at <http://www.iafp.com/CME/CMEinsert.pdf>)
- Unique “product theater” luncheon: **An Advance in Multimodal Analgesic Therapy**
- Wine Reception Foundation Fundraiser on Friday, December 4
- Patient-Centered Medical Home session presented by AAFP Board member, Ken Bertka, MD of Toledo, Ohio
- All-Member Assembly and election of a new board of directors
- Awards banquet to honor FP of the Year and Family Medicine Teacher of the Year
  - o *Free for members, \$35 for non-member guests*
- The IAFP Board of Directors will meet Sunday, December 6



### **\*More about AAFP Live**

*AAFP Live!* is local, free CME delivering the latest science—from the leading experts—on the topics most relevant to you. This year's topic for a half-day course: **Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease**. *AAFP Live!* Registration is free, but space is limited. Register at [www.aafplive.org](http://www.aafplive.org).

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## **UPDATE – H1N1 Flu Vaccines**

### **IDPH update on vaccine distribution**

IDPH reported in a Friday morning conference call that 1.2 million doses of H1N1 vaccine has been shipped to IDPH and they have ordered an additional 1.4 million doses.

- For providers who are family physicians, pediatricians or OB/GYNs - AND ordered **100 doses, or multiple lots of 100 doses**, they will get direct shipments of their vaccine from McKesson, which began shipping on November 4.
- Any provider who ordered **less than 100 doses** should direct their patients to get the vaccine at their county health department. Locate the local health department information using this interactive map tool: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/local/map.htm>. Providers who ordered less than 100 doses via the IDPH process now will not be receiving shipments from IDPH.

Retail pharmacies have not been shipped any H1N1 vaccine and will not receive it until providers' orders are filled first.

## **Chicago providers: Here is the web site for updates on vaccine offerings in the City of Chicago**

Chicago Department of Public Health:

[http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/portalContentItemAction.do?BV\\_SessionID=@ @ @ @ 2006543880.1256920421 @ @ @ @ &BV\\_EngineID=cccadeijleehefcefecelldfhdfgm.0&contentOID=537057975&contentType=COC\\_EDITORIAL&topChannelName=Dept&blockName=Health%2FSwine+Flu%2FI+Want+To&context=dept&channelId=0&programId=0&entityName=Health&deptMainCategoryOID=-536897682](http://egov.cityofchicago.org/city/webportal/portalContentItemAction.do?BV_SessionID=@ @ @ @ 2006543880.1256920421 @ @ @ @ &BV_EngineID=cccadeijleehefcefecelldfhdfgm.0&contentOID=537057975&contentType=COC_EDITORIAL&topChannelName=Dept&blockName=Health%2FSwine+Flu%2FI+Want+To&context=dept&channelId=0&programId=0&entityName=Health&deptMainCategoryOID=-536897682)

## **Questions about H1N1 vaccines and egg allergies**

Recently the question came up on what to do with patients at risk for H1N1 with egg allergy. The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) has issued guidelines which are helpful. It may be prudent to consult with an allergist before ruling the vaccine out.

[http://www.aaaai.org/media/h1n1/egg\\_allergy\\_li.pdf](http://www.aaaai.org/media/h1n1/egg_allergy_li.pdf)

## **2009 H1N1 Influenza: Resources for Clinicians -**

This page is designed to give clinicians access to the latest guidelines and information on the evolving novel H1N1 influenza investigation. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/>

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## **Federal Government Relations- Health Care Reform**

### **U.S. House passes health care reform bill**

The U.S. House of Representatives unveiled H.R. 3962, the [Affordable Health Care for America Act](http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_ahcaa.pdf) ([http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111\\_ahcaa.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_ahcaa.pdf) 1990-page PDF), on Thursday. The bill represents the melding of the three House versions of health system reform legislation and includes a public option in which physician participation is voluntary and payments are based on negotiated rates and the private insurance market. The bill passed late Saturday, November 7 by a slim 220-Yes margin (218 is required to pass). One Republican voted for the bill and 39 Democrats voted against it.

The House also unveiled H.R. 3961, the [Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act](http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_sgr1.pdf) ([http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111\\_sgr1.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_sgr1.pdf) 13-page PDF). This bill would repeal Medicare's sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula and replace it with a payment system that provides for more predictable updates from Medicare. For 2010 Medicare physician rate increases would be equal to the increase in the Medical Economic Index MEI.

### **Call your U.S. Representatives today in support of H.R. 3961.**

A floor vote is planned next week in the U.S. House of Representatives on H.R. 3961, the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act of 2009." This legislation would permanently repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that calls for annual cuts in Medicare physician payments and replace it with a new, more rational payment system.

In less than two months, Medicare payments will be slashed by more than 21 percent because of the SGR formula. This is the time to solve the problem once and for all, to preserve access to care and provide physician practices with the financial stability they need to help build a 21st century health care system.

### **Physicians should tell their representative:**

- Congress must fulfill its obligations to Medicare patients and military families covered by TRICARE.
- Short-term patches that only make future cuts deeper and the cost of a permanent solution more expensive are not the answer.
- The fiscally responsible solution is permanent repeal of the SGR formula.

## **Meanwhile on the Senate side...**

With the HELP and Finance Committee bills melded into one single bill for the Senate floor, leadership sent it last week to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to be scored. They expect to get it back sometime next week, at which point it will be brought to the Senate Floor for debate and the amendment process.

## **Red Flags Rule extended again**

As a result of continued advocacy by the medical community, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has delayed the enforcement date of the "red flags" rule until June 1, 2010. Enforcement of this rule, which requires certain businesses to develop identity theft prevention and detection programs, was originally scheduled for Nov. 1, 2008, and has been extended four times now. The AAFP will continue to make the case to the FTC and Congress that physicians are not "creditors" and should not be subject to the rule. View a [news release from the FTC](#) about the deadline extension at <http://www2.ftc.gov/opa/2009/10/redflags.shtm>.



## **Friendly Reminder**

To complement and strengthen our position in the health care debate, it's vital that members support the AAFP FamMedPAC. The PAC supports candidates and incumbents of both parties that support family medicine's priority issues. Several Illinois members of Congress have received AAFP FamMedPAC contributions, hand delivered by IAFP constituents. Learn more and donate at <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/fammedpac.html>

## **State Government Relations**

### **Spring into Action 2010 - Save the Dates!**

#### **March 17, 18 or April 13, 14, or 15**

IAFP offers five different dates to participate in the legislative process in March or April. These "mini" lobby days are designed to give family physicians more opportunities to learn about our state government and advocate on issues that impact family medicine. You will meet face to face with those policy makers and legislators involved in creating and implementing health care policy in Illinois that affects you and your patients.

Each Spring into Action session will use the same template so that ANY date you pick will enable you to:

- Advocate on behalf of family medicine and its strengths
- Increase your visibility with legislators and policymakers
- Exchange information about public policy and its effects on your practice and patients

### **New State Law supplements Medicare Rx Coverage**

**HB 366**, the bill to create one Illinois Cares Rx benefit for all income-eligible Medicare beneficiaries, has now become law. **This change is effective in 2010.** It is important for service providers and advocates working with older adults and persons with disabilities to understand the following. Complete info is posted at <http://www.iafp.com/legislative/MMW.pdf>

1. There will **no longer be two different Illinois Cares Rx benefit levels for people with Medicare** (Basic and Plus). Beginning in 2010, all Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for Illinois Cares Rx will receive assistance with all drugs on their Part D plan formulary.

2. The **Illinois Cares Rx** pharmaceutical assistance benefit and the **Circuit Breaker** cash grant and license plate discount **will have exactly the same income eligibility limits.**
3. The new income limits for applications submitted in 2010 (using 2009 income information) will be: **\$27,610 for one-person households, \$36,635 for two-person households, and \$45,657 for three or more person households.**

### **IAFP Testifies at Cook County Health Budget Hearing**

Family medicine is the strongest link in the Cook County Bureau of Health safety net, providing full spectrum primary care to uninsured and underserved county residents. IAFP executive director Vincent Keenan, CAE provided live testimony at an Oct. 22 budget hearing urging the County to keep the primary care services in the community and prioritizing the County's highly regarded family medicine residency program. Read his full testimony at <http://www.iafp.com/legislative/CookCoHealth.pdf>.

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## **CME Information**

### **Your Healthcare Plus Invites You to a Free Educational Session - MONDAY**

ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS are increasingly being prescribed by primary care physicians. This class of medication is indicated for the treatment of Schizophrenia, Bipolar 1 disorder, and as an adjunct in Major Depression. Increased prescribing often leads to improper dosing and off-label use of these medications. Unfortunately, these practices have led to many patient safety concerns and a black box warning. You are invited to a free educational session to learn more about the proper use of antipsychotic medications.

**Monday, November 16 from 12 to 1 pm CST.**

**You can join this discussion at (877) 736-0112, Passcode: 3185465526**

The call, hosted by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Your Healthcare Plus™, will be moderated by Dr. Harold Carmel, Psychiatrist and Vice President of Clinical Services for Care Management Technologies. To ensure that your information needs are met, please feel free to submit a question prior to the call to Lynn Hamilton at [lhamilton@cmthealthcare.com](mailto:lhamilton@cmthealthcare.com).

### ***Egyptian Chapter Meeting***

The IAFP Egyptian chapter is gathering next week for a meeting and an educational presentation on a new gout medication. The speaker is Fred Pfalzgraph, MD, rheumatologist

**Tom's Place - 17107 N US Highway 51, DeSoto, IL (Phone number 618-867-3033)**

6:00 - 6:30 pm appetizers

6:30 - 8:00 pm program.

RSVP to Kate Valentine at [kvalentine@iafp.com](mailto:kvalentine@iafp.com) OR 630-427-8000 by Tuesday, November 17.

### ***IAFP ONLINE FREE CME***

With the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) CME Website, <http://www.IAFP.com/education> (registration required), you will be able to track which CME courses you have completed and obtain your CME certificates - simply with the click of a button at the end of each completed online course.

Check out any of the IAFP FREE online CME programs and you could earn up to nine credits by completing all of the case studies.



**YOUR HEALTHCARE PLUS FREE CME**  
Visit <http://www.yhplus.com>

Each topic contains valuable resources, including disease management tips, clinical education, QI worksheets and reference materials, as well as audio files for people on the go. All CME modules on this website, except QI, have been approved for AMA Cat 1 credit, AAFP prescribed credit, nursing contact hours, and asthma and depression have been approved for ABFM MC-FP Part IV credit.



Access our fresh collection of online activities to reinforce and expand your knowledge between meetings. [http://www.primed.com/PMO/AllActivities.aspx?CCODE=r12&utm\\_source=iafp&utm\\_medium=partnerlink&utm\\_campaign=AM\\_IAFP\\_r12](http://www.primed.com/PMO/AllActivities.aspx?CCODE=r12&utm_source=iafp&utm_medium=partnerlink&utm_campaign=AM_IAFP_r12)

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## News You Can Use

### **Chicago's CommunityHealth center seeks more volunteers**

With more than 1.5 million uninsured people in the Chicago area, CommunityHealth (located at 2611 West Chicago Ave.) has seen a 40% increase in the number of people seeking care. The center is in desperate need of volunteer providers, including primary care physicians. If you have a few hours a month or a few hours a week that you can spare, you can make a real impact on the lives of those who face complex medical needs and barriers to health care services.

Founded in 1993, Community Health is the largest volunteer-based facility in Illinois. The center is in compliance with the Illinois Good Samaritan Act, meaning that all volunteer physicians are exempt from medical liability of any kind.

The clinic is open Monday through Saturday, including four evenings. Services are free, and both Spanish and Polish interpreters are available. Learn more at [www.communityhealth.org](http://www.communityhealth.org). If you'd like to volunteer, contact Kelly Tondini, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 773-395-9901 ext. 23 or [ktondini@communityhealth.org](mailto:ktondini@communityhealth.org).

### **Sign up today for "Bright Smiles from Birth"**

The Bright Smiles from Birth program is expanding to the Rockford and Champaign areas and will continue to grow in Cook, DuPage and Lake County. Bright Smiles from Birth is an educational and technical assistance program focused on improving the oral health of infants and young children. Participating practices will receive a 60-minute in-office program that will train providers and office staff to incorporate oral health screenings into their well-child exams. The program will also assist providers in taking appropriate steps once high-risk patients are identified, which may include patient education, referral to dental homes, and application of fluoride varnish. There is no cost for the program and each practice will be provided with a resource kit containing professional and patient education materials. Eligible practices that complete the training are eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid for fluoride varnish application. **To schedule a presentation or for more information contact:** Paula Zajac at [pzajac@illinoisaap.com](mailto:pzajac@illinoisaap.com) or 312/733-1026 ext. 212.

## Don't forget – Nov. 19 is the Great American Smokeout

This will be a great day to talk to every patient about smoking and ask your patients who are current smokers to quit. The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout will be observed on November 19, 2009. The event encourages smokers to quit for at least 1 day (in the hope that this might challenge them to stop using tobacco permanently) and raises awareness of the many effective ways to quit for good. Information about the Great American Smokeout is available at [http://www.cancer.org/docroot/ped/ped\\_10\\_4.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/ped/ped_10_4.asp).

## Members in the news

E-mail Ginnie Flynn at [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com) to share your media clips or to request a copy of any items listed below.

IAFP member **Michael Loacono, MD** and his family were featured in a Nov. 12 Oak Park/River Forest local newspaper. Loacono, his wife and their three sons all work at West Suburban Hospital in River Forest.

**Yves-Mario Piverger, MD** is the featured resource in a comprehensive H1N1 patient education article in the South Holland newspaper on Nov. 11.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

*IAFP members may post a classified ad in E-news free of charge for up to 4 issues.*

*Classified ad rates for non-IAFP members are \$100 per month (2 issues per month).*

Contact Ginnie Flynn at [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com) to place your ad or you can download and print a form at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/EnewsAd.pdf>

1. Sherman Family Healthcare Centers is seeking full and part-time Family Physicians for urgent care work in **Elgin** area. These four urgent care facilities are owned and operated by Sherman Hospital and has a combined annual volume of over 60,000 patients a year. With Sherman opening a new state of the art hospital in December, we fully expect our centers to grow and prosper. This is an excellent opportunity for Family Physicians who want to join an established and successful organization where all physicians are partners and owners and share in the success of the group. We offer excellent compensation, ownership, profit sharing as well as health, disability and retirement programs. Contact Doug Harala at 800-842-2619 or by e-mail at [haralad@medamerica.com](mailto:haralad@medamerica.com).

2. Practice full-spectrum family medicine! Full-time position for family physician at **Logan Square Health of Cook County**. Join three other family physicians and three internists in this busy health center servicing the north side of Chicago. Position is mainly outpatient focused, but includes resident/student teaching, obstetrics and inpatient care. Current interest/competency in obstetrics is required. Bilingual Spanish or Polish is highly desirable. Salary is competitive and benefits are excellent. Contact Stephen Stabile, MD at [chisalvato@gmail.com](mailto:chisalvato@gmail.com) if interested.

3. The Department of Family and Community Medicine at the **University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford** is seeking family physician faculty to take part in its innovative Primary Care Clinic program. This involves clinical care and faculty supervision of medical students in an office designed specifically for longitudinal primary care teaching. The Department offers an on-site MPH certificate program and faculty development opportunities. The College is a WHO Collaborating Center for Medical Education. Candidates should be board certified or board eligible. OB skills preferred by not required. Prior experience in substance abuse medicine or correctional medicine a plus. Rank is commensurate with qualifications.

For fullest consideration, please send a cover letter and resume to: Carrie Sharkey-Asner, MD, Search Committee Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine; 1601 Parkview Ave, Rockford, IL 61107 or by email to [CSA@uic.edu](mailto:CSA@uic.edu). Call 815-395-5810 for further information. The University of Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## Repeat Items

### **Illinois Health Connect Providers – IMPORTANT NOTICE**

If your practice is an Illinois Health Connect primary care provider (PCP), the following information may be helpful to you.

To continue to enhance continuity of care, IHC is now implementing Phase I of the Illinois Health Connect Referral System, implemented by Region, on the dates provided below:

- **Northwest Counties - Implementation began Monday, October 5, 2009**
- Collar Counties – December 1, 2009
- Cook County – February 1, 2010
- Central Counties – April 1, 2010
- Southern Counties – April 1, 2010

**NEW! Watch a seven minute video about the IHC Phase I Referral policies and procedures for entering and verifying referrals.**

<http://illinoishealthconnect.com/providerinfo.aspx>

Illinois Health Connect (IHC) is hosting training webinars and presentations entitled, “**Illinois Health Connect: Referral System Implementation-Phase 1.**” Please check the IHC website at [www.illinoishealthconnect.com](http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com) under Events Calendar (presentations) or Provider Education (webinars) for an updated schedule of trainings. **These educational sessions are open to all IHC Primary Care Providers, administrative, and clinical staff.**

## Webinars

Wednesday November 18 at 8am

Link to schedule and registration at <http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com/providereducation.aspx>

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