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e-News for Friday, August 15, 2014

Upcoming Events

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Understanding and Preventing Identity Theft in Your Practice

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Free Online Webinar

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HIPAA Security Compliance: Be Prepared

September 17, 2014  
St. Mary's of Michigan - Saginaw

October 24, 2014  
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1. Open Payments Advocacy! AMA Seeks Your Opinion in Short Survey



The AMA has developed a [short advocacy survey](#) designed to gather information about physicians' experiences with registering in the Open Payments system and reviewing their data.

Last week, in response to mounting physician frustration with the registration process, more than 100 medical societies signed onto a letter

that asked for a six-month delay in the public release of the Open Payments data. This was soon followed by the discovery of reporting errors that led Medicare to take the Open Payments System offline.

The AMA wants to know what you think about the Open Payments System. Please complete the [short advocacy survey](#) and e-mail any personal stories or anecdotes to [OpenPayments@ama-assn.org](mailto:OpenPayments@ama-assn.org).

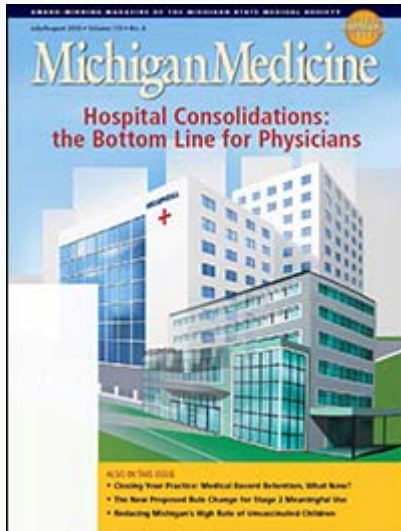
Deadline for taking the survey is Monday, Aug. 18.



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## 2. Bottom Line on Hospital Consolidations: Physicians Must Be in Leadership Roles



Hospital consolidations during the past four years are at levels not seen in more than a decade with 84 hospital mergers and acquisitions nationally in 2013 alone, as noted in *Michigan Medicine's* lead story, "[Hospital Consolidations: The Bottom Line for Physicians](#)." The number of deals was down slightly from the previous year, but the number of hospitals and beds involved in those deals hit a five-year high.

Various studies show mixed results of the consolidations,

which likely are increasing because of effects of the ACA, the article points out. On the up side, survivability of smaller hospitals and improved quality. On the down side, higher prices in some areas.

"Good or bad, the results of consolidation are likely to stick for many years," said Betty Chu, MD, MBA, who serves on the MSMS Board of Directors and is Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs at Henry Ford Medical Center. "If I had to give my take-home message it would be this: it's going to increase anxiety, but physicians absolutely need to be a part of the leadership structure of any consolidation. Physicians are really the only people who can understand the complexities of inpatient and outpatient medicine well enough to make these consolidations successful."

## 3. House Call: Key Capitol News Outlet Ranks Physician Candidates as "Most Likely to Flip" Districts



John Bizon, MD, and Ned Canfield, DO, were both successful in winning their respective primaries on Aug. 5. In addition to earning the support of voters, the two physician candidates running for the Michigan House of Representatives also are getting noticed by political observers in Lansing.

The Michigan Information and Research Service (MIRS), a trusted source of news

coverage of the Capitol, has ranked both doctors in the Top 7 swing districts.

MIRS ranks the 84th District in the thumb area of the state as the most likely district to flip. The district is being vacated by a popular

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incumbent, but more importantly "the Republicans' desired general election candidate, Dr. Ned **CANFIELD**, of Sebewaing, blasted through a seven-way primary, fending off some less-than desirable options for the GOP. Canfield is well funded -- raising \$71,000 before the primary -- he's a solid campaigner, and he's poised to win the district back for the GOP."

After the primary results, MIRS has now ranked the 62nd district as the 7th most likely district to flip this November. This is an open seat in the Battle Creek area with a history of voting for candidates from both parties. While this seat was not originally on the radar for many observers, the strong showing of Doctor Bizon has made this district competitive. MIRS notes, "After competitive primaries on both sides, the race in the 62nd will be between Republican Dr. John **BIZON**, of Battle Creek, and Democrat Andy **HELMBOLDT**, a Battle Creek commissioner. While the 62nd favors Democrats, Bizon, former president of the Michigan State Medical Society, has shown the ability to raise big financial support."

For more information regarding the candidates for office, go to [mdpac.org](http://mdpac.org).

#### 4. Even With ICD-10 Delayed, Preparation and Training Should Continue



Even though the effective date for the implementation of ICD-10 has been officially pushed back by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from Oct. 1 this year to Oct. 1, 2015, MSMS suggests that physicians and their staff continue to prepare.

While groups opposing and supporting the implementation are both vocal nationally, and while there have already been numerous delays, it is virtually impossible to know whether another delay will occur.

Practices should consider being prepared either way and use the extra time to ramp up efforts for the transition to ICD-10. Click [here](#) for information about ICD-10 training sessions.

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