

Infectious Disease Spread Prompts Practice Concerns

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e-News for Friday, October 3, 2014

Upcoming Events

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1. BCN Announces New Narrow Network Product for Medicare Advantage



On Wednesday, Blue Care Network announced a new narrow network product for Medicare Advantage (MA).

Blue Care Network will offer ConnectedCare, a new, lower priced product for Medicare-eligible individuals in eight counties (Genesee, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne) for 2015. A local network Wayne County-only product that started in 2014 served as the basis for ConnectedCare.

ConnectedCare includes more than 5,000 providers and 20 hospitals across the state from Oakwood ACO and Together Health Network (Ascension and Trinity Health). Only physicians participating with the above-mentioned organizations are considered in-network.

Unlike the SE Michigan Exclusive Provider Organization, it does not appear that this network opportunity was offered to non-affiliated PHOs/POs or individual physicians. Referrals to out-of-network providers can be requested through the existing BCN referral authorization process.

This new product will be marketed primarily through BCN and

Confronting Changes in Payment Reform

October 8, 2014
MSU Management Education Center - Troy

The drive to reign in health care costs has contributed significantly to how health care is delivered and paid for. Although payment models have been implemented and hopes run high for true payment reform, many unknowns remain. This program will set the record straight and guide you through the labyrinth of changes in the health care landscape.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

PCMH: Supporting Patients through Population Health

October 21, 2014
Somerset Inn - Troy

The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is physician-led and rooted in primary care. It emphasizes patient satisfaction by enhancing the quality of coordinated care and utilizing specific performance measures and incentives with potential cost savings to the health care system. Population health and the management of chronic disease are accentuated in this health care delivery model.

[Details & Registration >>](#)

insurance agents. This Medicare Advantage narrow network product will be priced lower than BCN's traditional MA product. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the offering of ConnectedCare. It will be offered for purchase beginning on October 15, 2014, with an effective date of January 1, 2015.

For questions or concerns, contact Rebecca Blake, Senior Director, Health Care Delivery and Education, at 517-336-5729 or rblake@msms.org.

2. Reclassification of Hydrocodone Combination Products Impacts Prescribers and Patients



Recently, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) published a final rule to reclassify hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) from Schedule III to the more restrictive Schedule II category of controlled substances.

This rescheduling is effective next Monday, October 6, and applies to "all pharmaceuticals containing hydrocodone currently on the market in the United States."

As a result, physicians currently prescribing HCPs to their patients will need to recognize the new restrictions this change requires when they write future prescriptions. All prescribers in Michigan will be expected to follow the federal rule and must treat an HCP prescription the same as any other Schedule II prescription.

Read more about [tips](#) to help prescribers prepare for this change.

3. Media Notes MSMS' Unrelenting Efforts to Stop Senate Bill 2



The MSMS message on Senate Bill 2 was not lost on Wednesday as Advance Practice Nurses came to Lansing to lobby for its passage. A mobile billboard was created and parked in front of the House Office Building as a reminder of the

medical community's strong opposition to this inappropriate scope expansion bill.

The billboard was noted in the Capitol newsletter MIRS:

On APRN Advocacy Day, Jansen Bashes Critics

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) advocated at the Capitol today for the power to diagnose and prescribe, and Sen. Mark JANSEN (R-Gaines Twp.) took to the Senate floor to denounce their many critics.

Jansen is the sponsor of Senate Bill 2, a bill that would allow APRNs to diagnose illnesses and prescribe medications to patients. Supporters contend APRNs have enough education and experience to do so, but doctors throughout the state have

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condemned the legislation as an overreach.

A large truck that read "Protect Patients. Say No to Senate Bill 2" sat in front of the Capitol for most of the day, prompting Jansen to encourage opponents to "read the Senate-passed version rather than lie about another Senate version that was not passed" on the Senate floor.

4. CDC Confirms 25 Cases of EV-D68 in Michigan



The CDC confirmed 25 cases of EV-D68 in Michigan this week including one case involving a baby in Washtenaw County with lower extremity paralysis.

Most of the hundreds of cases nationwide present with difficulty breathing and other respiratory issues. Only a very small percentage of those infected exhibit neurological symptoms.

Most of the Michigan children who had confirmed cases have been hospitalized, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Individuals can contract the virus by being in contact with an infected person or handling something that has been contaminated. Hand washing, disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, and not sharing utensils or having close contact with a sick person remain the best defense.

Children with asthma are particularly threatened by the virus, so MDCH warned that such children should be diligent in using their medications controlling asthma.

A timely session will be presented at MSMS Annual Scientific Meeting to provide a better understanding of the trends for EV-D68 infections. "Infectious Disease Update 2014" will take place on Thursday afternoon, October 23, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Somerset Inn in Troy.

For more information about this course as well as more than 30 additional courses presented by local and national experts, visit www.msms.org/eo or contact the Registrar at 517-336-7581 or mbenhamza@msms.org. Earn up to 28.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] during the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Statement of Accreditation: The Michigan State Medical Society is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation Statement: The Michigan State Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 28.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits[™]. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

5. Ebola is Just a Plane Ride Away

The CDC has been warning for months that Ebola is just a plane ride away from the U.S. and is asking hospital emergency department staff to ask patients whether they have recently traveled to

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Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea, the three countries hardest hit by the worst Ebola outbreak on record.

The first case in the U.S. was confirmed this week after a man flew from Liberia to Dallas. At least 3,091 people

have died from Ebola since the West African outbreak was first reported in a remote region of Guinea in March.

In the early stages of infection, Ebola resembles many other viral illnesses, causing headache, fever, weakness, muscle pain, diarrhea, and nausea, which is why the CDC is stressing the need to ask about travel histories.

"The events in Dallas this week might actually help raise awareness about Ebola detection and public health protocols," said Sandro Cinti, MD, chair of the MSMS Public Health Committee and an Infectious Diseases specialist at the University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor VA.

For detailed information about Ebola, please click on these links from the Michigan Department of Community Health and the CDC.

- [CDC Information for Health Care Workers](#)
- [MDCH Interim Guidelines for Evaluation of U.S. Patients Suspected of Having Ebola Virus Disease](#)

6. AMA Offers Physician Response to CMS Data Release



Physicians' financial data under the Physician Payments Sunshine Act, also known as the "[Open Payments](#)" program, was released to the public on Tuesday. It focused on payments to physicians from drug and device manufacturers.

While most physicians won't find their data in the local news, chances are their patients or others they know will ask them about it.

An article titled [CMS Releases Sunshine Act Data: What Physicians Need to Know](#) was included in the *AMA Advocacy Update* emailed earlier this week. It includes talking points for giving a thoughtful response to three questions physicians most likely might hear from patients, information about what the AMA has been doing about this issue, and instructions to dispute data that is being released.



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