



Medical Professional Services Inc.

## Exam Room:

*Issue: June 2016*

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June 27, 2016

Dear Member,

### Annual Meeting - Big Success!

The Annual meeting took place on June 7th at the Inn in Middletown. A key element of the session was the election of a slate of directors for three-year terms. The members elected two new directors.

**Michael Crain, M.D.** is a Radiologist and is the President & CEO, of RAM Radiology and Chairman, Department of Radiology, Middlesex Hospital. Dr. Crain is a graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine and is Board Certified in Radiology from the American Board of Radiology.

**Jennifer Henkind, M.D.** is a Pediatrician at Stamford Pediatric Associates. Dr. Henkind is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo, graduated Cum Laude and completed her pediatric training at the Children's Hospital in Buffalo New York and is Board Certified by The American Board of Pediatrics.

In addition, a serving director was reelected for a new three-year term.

**Henry Borkowski, M.D.** is a Cardiologist and the founder of Cardiology Associates of Greater Waterbury. Dr. Borkowski is a graduate of the Harvard Medical School and is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

The Board is key to the governance and setting the strategic direction for your IPA-Medical Professional Services. The board meets every other month with Executive Committee meeting monthly for compliance, quality, credentialing and financial oversight. You are encouraged to bring questions to the attention of the board as they represent you, the members.

### MPS is awarded Harvard Pilgrim Grant

**MPS is the Only Recipient of Harvard Pilgrim Quality Grant in Connecticut**

Physician practices in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire will receive grant funding this year from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to fund 16 initiatives designed to improve care delivery and reduce costs within a variety of care models. Connecticut's only grant recipient is Medical Professional Services.

"This year's grants touch the issues of concern to physicians across the county," said Dr. Michael Sherman, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. "By offering these grants, we are challenging physicians in our region to improve the experience of our patients and the quality of their care. We look forward to discovering innovative best practices that will be shared throughout the region to truly raise the bar for our members," he said.

The MPS grant project is titled *Improving Patient Care and Collaboration with the PCMH-Neighbor*. The primary goal of the project is to improve patient safety and outcomes by improving the quality of care provided to patients with chronic pain explained Dr. Cliff Drechsler-Martell, Medical Director, as he announced the award to members at the MPS Annual Physicians Meeting on June 7th.

## CECity Selected as PQRS Partner in 2016

**MPS has entered into a partnership with Pittsburgh based CECity to offer MPS members access to the PQRSwizard for 2016 PQRS registry reporting.**

The *PQRSwizard* is powered by CECity, a CMS qualified registry. The online reporting option is designed to make participation in the PQRS program quick and easy and when you're done, CECity will submit the report to CMS on your behalf.

Benefits of the *PQRSwizard*:

- Requires as few as 20 patient records per provider
- Validates data entry automatically
- Maximizes your PQRS incentive and avoids penalties
- \$199/provider for MPS members

A referral link to the site will be available to MPS members beginning early July 2016. The link may be accessed through our secure member portal on the MPS website at [www.mpsphysicians.com](http://www.mpsphysicians.com).

## Practice News

### Commercial ACO Notifications (Shared Savings Contracts)

#### Enhancing the Role of the Certified Medical Assistant: The Wellness Coordinator

As healthcare systems shift to value-based payment models, providers will need to re-imagine how to deliver and manage patient care to better position themselves to

achieve minimum regulatory mandates for quality, cost, and outcomes. Primary care practices must reevaluate workflows to meet quality metrics, safety priorities and utilization, not only to avoid reimbursement penalties, but to negotiate for higher reimbursement rates. In order to meet quality and reporting requirements, promote patient well-being, and ensure financial survival, healthcare teams must take a holistic approach to care delivery across the continuum, narrow gaps in care coordination and control cost of care.

Medical Professional Services is excited to announce that Litchfield Hills Family Medicine of Torrington and Brass City Medicine of Waterbury, will participate in an MPS demonstration project to transform primary care. The project, "Enhancing the Role of the Medical Assistant: The Wellness Coordinator," was developed by Olinda Cunha, MSN, RN, Director of Care Coordination & Quality Management and provides financial and educational resources to primary care practices to equip the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) with multidimensional skills so he/she can work to the full extent of his/her scope of practice. CMA's participating in this project must successfully complete a course in common chronic diseases, fundamentals of care coordination and quality improvement, and then apply the lessons learned to the practice. The objective is to position the primary care physician to improve quality and minimize cost of care, align care with value-based reimbursement and enhanced payment opportunities, and establish workflows that incorporate processes to increase practice revenue. The project is scheduled to run for 12 months, starting July 1, 2016 and is expected to be very successful.

### Chairman's Note

You can see that the MPS management team and staff have been busy enhancing value for MPS members. We continue to monitor, and when possible, renegotiate all of our commercial contracts. PQRS reporting for 2016 is a major focus but we are also preparing for the requirements of the MACRA legislation starting in 2017. We anticipate that most members will participate in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). We no longer participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program/ACO but are looking at possible other Alternative Payment Models (APMs).



### Executive Director's Blog

The beginning of summer is a busy time for the staff and practice members of MPS. Our latest practice managers' training session for CMS PQRS reporting and gaps in care action reports across our commercial contracts are just two examples.

The attendance at our regular practice managers' meetings is very encouraging as these interactions build team work and allows for members to share their challenges and successes. A result of this dialogue is the launch of our wellness coordinator pilot described earlier in the newsletter. Our team work also allowed for successful negotiations for an increase in worker comp rates for State of Connecticut employee care.



As we continue forward in this time of rapid change in care delivery and reimbursement, our strategic actions are focused on increased income from value based contracts and increasing referrals inside the MPS membership.

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I thank you for your attention to this newsletter. Please feel free to share comments and suggestions via email to [editor@mpsphysicians.com](mailto:editor@mpsphysicians.com).

Sincerely,

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