



Academy In Action

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The California Academy of Family Physicians works to make sure that our members are up-to-date with the latest happenings. Thus we put out our Academy in Action news twice monthly. Please feel free to look through our Academy in Action Archives.

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CAFP's Top Priority Bills Heard Today in Assembly Health Committee

CAFP's top priority bills to increase and fund medical residency training slots in training programs in underserved areas, AB 1176 (Bocanegra), and define the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), AB 1208 (Pan), are being heard today in the Assembly Health Committee. Thomas Balsbaugh, MD, the family medicine residency program director at UC Davis, is testifying on behalf of CAFP. In conjunction with the hearing, CAFP and the California Medical Association (CMA) are holding a joint press conference on the steps of the Capitol building to publicize proposed legislation to increase the physician workforce in California, including AB 1176. Representing CAFP at the press conference will be Jeremy Fish, MD, former director of the Contra Costa Family Medicine Residency Program. Other family physicians lending their support for CAFP priority bills include Marion Leff, MD, the family medicine residency program director at

Sutter Sacramento, Irene Lee–Klass, MD and Karun Grossman, MD. Assembly Bill 1176 garnered opposition from numerous health plans, so our members' support for the bill is deeply appreciated.

CAFP Legislative Affairs Committee Sets Positions on Legislation

The CAFP Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) met by phone last Thursday evening to review hundreds of bills, from gun violence to scope of practice, and make policy recommendations to the CAFP Board. The three most expansive scope bills are SB 491 (nurse practitioners), SB 492 (optometrists) and SB 493 (pharmacists). The LAC recommended an 'Oppose unless Amended' position on all three, seeking amendments to protect patient safety, prevent the fragmentation of care and adhere more closely to team-based care as exemplified by the Patient Centered Medical Home. The LAC also recommended the CAFP Board support numerous bills, including:

- AB 760 (Dickinson) – This bill would impose a five cent tax on munitions sold at retail or on the Internet. The revenue collected would go to the School-Based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services for Children grant program.
- AB 746 (Levine) – This bill would prohibit the smoking of tobacco in all areas of multifamily dwellings, except those designated as areas where smoking is permitted.
- SB 22 (Beall) – This bill would require every health care service plan and insurer to submit an annual detailed report to the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance certifying compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and require the reports to be made available on the departments' websites.
- SB 445 (Price) – This bill would prohibit advertisements by pharmacies that specifically promote the sale or dispensing of any controlled substances.
- SB 622 (Monning) – This bill would impose a one cent per fluid ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. The money generated would go to the Children's Health Promotion Fund for the purposes of statewide childhood obesity prevention activities and program.

Ordering/Referring Physicians Must Enroll with Medicare by May 1 to Prevent Claims Denial

Physicians who refer to order services for Medicare beneficiaries must be enrolled with Medicare by May 1. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began notifying ordering/referring physicians of the need to enroll in 2009. Effective May 1, 2013, CMS will turn on claims edits and those received on or after May 1 will be denied if the ordering/referring physician does not have an enrollment record. Please enroll now via the online Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) or a paper enrollment application form.

DMV Changes Requirements for Physicians Who Give Medical Examinations

If you are a family physician who gives medical examinations for the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), you will need additional training and certification to perform exams. Beginning May 21, 2014, family physicians must complete a federal accredited training and pass a certification test to perform physician qualification examinations for truck and bus drivers. Those who are accredited physicians listed on the national Registry of Certified Medical Examiners can perform exams for the DMV. For more information on registration, training, and certification, please click [here](#).

California HealthCare Foundation Health Care Leadership Program Accepting Application

The CHCF Health Care Leadership Program offers clinically-trained professionals the experience and skills necessary for effective leadership. Since 2001, more than 350 health professionals including many CAFP members have participated in the program. This rigorous part-time, two-year fellowship addresses essential leadership and management, as well as health practice and policy, topics. These topics include building and leading teams, forming political coalitions, using financial management tools, developing organizational strategies and goals and investigating future trends, such as new technologies, changing demographics and the social context of health care. The fellowship is available to clinically-trained health

care professionals who live and work in California and currently serve in management or leadership roles.

Applications for the next cohort are due May 15, 2013.

To find out more about the program, visit the UCSF Center for Health Professions program site.

AAFP Urges CMS to Create New Primary Care–Specific E/M Codes

AAFP has shared a letter and supporting documents it recently sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), urging the agency to create new Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes specifically for primary care physicians that better reflect the complexity and intensity of modern-day primary care practice. In the letter, AAFP strongly encourages CMS to include the new codes in its 2014 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The report that accompanies the letter makes the case that the intensity and complexity of an E/M encounter with a primary care physician is demonstrably different, both qualitatively and quantitatively, than encounters with other specialists. The existing E/M codes do not adequately reflect the scope of responsibilities and the complexity of care that family physicians provide in the office and other outpatient settings.

AAFP and CAFP will continue to advocate for payment commensurate with the intensity and complexity of care provided by family physicians. If you have questions regarding AAFP's letter, or want more information, please contact Jane Cho.

CAPG Brings Out the Stars at Its Annual Healthcare Conference

Last year, it was renowned physician writer Atul Gawande, MD. This year President Bill Clinton will be keynote speaker at the California Association of Physician Groups' (CAPG) 10th Annual Healthcare Conference entitled "Reform, Innovation, Accountability: The Future Is Now," which will be held June 6–9, 2013 at the JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. Live.

The conference is focused on helping physician, hospital, health system, health plan, and government leaders thrive in the new world of increased coordination, integration and accountability. Early registration is available at: www.capg.org/conference2013. Other plenary sessions speakers include Susan Dentzer, editor-in-chief of Health Affairs; Jeff Goldsmith, noted writer and lecturer on health planning, medical technology, and other healthcare issues; and Norman J. Ornstein, residentscholar at the American Enterprise Institute and author of the weekly column, "Congress Inside Out" for Roll Call newspaper.

Attendees can also choose from a wide range of invaluable educational breakouts in which leading experts from around the country provide detailed analysis and practical advice, as well as answer specific questions. Among the topics: global capitation; marketplace impact of Exchanges; the economics of reducing hospital admissions; implementing the Accountable Care Act in California; building high-performing clinical teams; aligning physicians and hospitals; all-payer health information exchange; keys to managing patient-centered care; achieving the "Triple Aim" in a PPO population; and accountable care lessons from other states.

CMA Keeping CAFP Busy This Week

In addition to CAFP's participation in a press conference supporting our physician workforce legislation, including our Graduate Medical Education bill jointly sponsored with CMA, and attendance at the CMA's Legislative Leadership Day, this week is packed with other CMA meetings as well. Yesterday, Executive Vice President Susan Hogeland participated remotely by phone in the Medical Executives Conference on topics ranging from advocacy to the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act and the Medical Board of California. Wednesday, she and legislative advocate Jodi Hicks will attend CMA's Medical Specialty Society meeting and Friday, she and CAFP President Steve Green, MD will meet with CMA Chief Executive Officer Dustin Corcoran and several other medical specialty society executives and leaders to discuss expansion of scope of practice legislation and concerns.

PCMH Alive and Well in the Inland Empire

CAFP Executive Vice President Susan Hogeland and Director of Health Policy Leah Newkirk traveled to the Inland Empire week before last to meet with folks at Loma Linda University and the Riverside County Medical Association about transformation to the Patient Centered Medical Home. They also visited the NCQA Level 3–recognized Patient Centered Medical Home practice of CAFP member Tarek Mahdi, MD in Riverside and marveled at the crisp efficiency of the staff and physicians. CAFP staff subsequently arranged for Dr. Mahdi to visit My Health Medical Group in San Francisco and CAFP member Larry Shore, MD. My Health Medical Group is also a Level–3 recognized PCMH practice and the two FPs shared best practices and challenges. These two have not only drunk the PCMH Kool–Aid, they may have mixed the batch!

Participate in ‘National Prescription Drug Take Back Day’

According to the 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs. The study also revealed more than 70 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet.

The California Medical Association (CMA) recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to address this serious issue, and is helping call attention to the problem. Disposal of unused prescription drugs is one strategy which helps prevent abuse and keeps pharmaceuticals out of landfills and waterways. CMA announced recently that more than 280 locations throughout California will be accepting unused prescription drugs, including controlled substances, as part of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27, 2013.

The event aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications. The last National Take Back event collected 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of prescription medications from members of the public across the country.

Physicians can take action by encouraging their patients to participate. To find a Take Back Day collection site near your practice, [click here](#). CMA has also produced a flyer to educate patients about proper disposal of prescription medication and National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which can be placed in offices and waiting rooms. It is available [here](#). For more information, contact: Scott Clark, (916) 551–2887 or sclark@cmanet.org.

Attend Covered California Town Hall Discussion

More than five million Californians could benefit from coverage offered through Covered California; two million will be eligible for subsidies from the federal government. To ensure the success of this effort, Covered California needs the help of community leaders and stakeholders across the state.

Their community–based outreach begins with a series of regional town halls to provide an update to stakeholders and solicit feedback on efforts and plans. Covered California’s first event will be held in the Inland Empire. Community leaders and key stakeholders are invited to participate in the town hall discussion.

Covered California board members and senior staff will lead discussions that include an update on Covered California’s progress and current plans, outreach and community education strategies and what primary care physicians can do to help ensure access to affordable health insurance.

Date & Time: April 25, 2013 4–6pm (doors open at 3:30)

Location: UC Riverside Extension Center

1200 University Avenue

Riverside, CA 92507

Parking is available behind the Extension Center and attendants will direct you on site.

Seating is limited. Please register for this town hall by calling 1–888–975–1141.

Additional events are being planned in the Bay Area, San Diego, Los Angeles and Orange County. Check

out the Stakeholder Tab on Covered California's web site
at <http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov/StakeHolders> for more information.

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