Dear Colleagues:

It is hard to believe we are half way through summer. Our 10th Annual Practice and Patient Management Symposium was a great success. We are currently awaiting the evaluations to see what topics you are interested in for next year. Planning is underway for the Sixth Annual CCA Symposium scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Lindner Center in Lombard with lots of great topics planned. Also, in the works is our Fall Fellows-In-Training/Early Career members event to be held Thursday, October 3, 2013, at the Gleacher Center in Chicago. We have a very enthusiastic group of Fellows working with the Chapter - remember this event is open to ALL Fellows-In-Training.

I hope you will consider attending the annual ACC Legislative Conference scheduled for September 22-24, 2013 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event kicks off on September 22nd with dinner in the evening. Last year on day two of the big event more than 350 cardiovascular professionals descended upon Capitol Hill to share their voice with lawmakers. There are a lot of critical issues facing you and your practice - academic, private, or integrated these issues impact how YOU deliver cardiovascular care. You could be a part of the action this year! To take part, register here. There are still some administrative stipends available -- please contact lchambers@acc.org by August 9 if interested!

Our online directory is now operational. Hopefully you have had a chance to use this new feature as well as verify your information. View the IL-ACC Membership Directory. When logging in please be sure to use your email address you have on record with the National ACC as your user name and the password will be your National ACC member number.

Hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer!

Marc Shelton, MD
IL ACC Governor

Important News

CMS RELEASES PROPOSED 2014 MEDICARE PHYSICIAN AND HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT FEE SCHEDULES
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released two proposed rules with important ramifications for cardiovascular professionals. These rules address Medicare payment and quality provisions for physicians and hospital outpatient services in 2014. The rules indicate that physicians will receive a more than 22 percent decrease in 2014 as a result of the legally mandated Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and that hospitals will receive a 1.8 percent increase in payment. As in previous years, the ACC continues to fight to avoid the physician payment cut. Aside from the across-the-board cuts associated with the SGR, CMS estimates that the physician rule will increase payments by 2 percent to cardiologists between 2013 and 2014. This estimate is based on typical practice and can vary widely depending on the mix of services provided in a practice. Read some of the other most important proposals for cardiology contained in the rules in the July 8 issue of the ACC Advocate here.

CMS RELEASES PROPOSES INCREASED MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IN 2014

See proposed increase in echo payment here

ACC WEIGHS IN ON MEDICARE INPATIENT HOSPITAL RULE

The ACC recently submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the proposed Medicare Inpatient Hospital Rule that covers the payments and related provisions for fiscal year 2014. One of the key elements in this rule is the arbitrary definition of outpatient versus inpatient since both groups of patients often receive the same services in the same building from the same staff. While there is still a ways to go, the College agrees with CMS' increased clarity on this topic. However, the College does oppose CMS' proposal to create a quality measure of resource use for a 30-day episode following admission for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) due to concerns that it would not measure costs appropriately. The College also urged CMS to proceed cautiously with a proposed technical change affecting payment for hospital stays that include imaging, cardiac catheterization, and involving implantable devices. This change will likely increase payments for hospital stays involving implantable device services and decrease payments for hospital stays with significant elements of CT or MR. Read the full letter.

HEADS UP ON PREAUTHORIZATION FOR UHC COMMERCIAL PLANS

Starting July 1, United Healthcare (UHC) began requiring preauthorization for their Commercial Plans for the following cardiovascular procedures: echocardiography, stress echocardiography, electrophysiologic implant devices, and diagnostic cardiac catheterization. UHC will also change its existing pre-notification obligation to pre-authorization on July 1. Get the details.

CATH PCI PHYSICIAN DASHBOARD LAUNCH
The NCDR in late June launched a new confidential Physician Dashboard for ACC members who practice at CathPCI Registry hospitals. The CathPCI Physician Dashboard is a new benefit for members of the ACC and includes over 40 physician-level metrics generated from CathPCI Registry data.

The dashboard is available to physicians through a secure log-on to Cardiosource.org and will provide selected metrics with comparisons to national benchmarks. The dashboard can be used to support quality improvement, volume tracking and as a data source for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV projects. The ACC is encouraging members to evaluate their data to ensure its accuracy.

For more information about the Physician Dashboard, click here.

NEWMELY RELEASED CLINICAL COMPETENCY STATEMENT ON CORONARY ARTERY INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES

See the newly released SCAI Clinical Competency Statement on Coronary Artery Interventional Procedures. Click Here

VASCULAR MEDICINE SAP NOW AVAILABLE

The ACC in late June launched the new Vascular Medicine Self-Assessment Program (SAP). This interactive program is designed to help physicians understand all aspects of aortic disease, peripheral arterial disease, stroke, extra-cranial carotid disease and venous thromboembolic disease. Users will receive:

- Education in a variety of formats - you can learn by reading, answering questions, or listening to presentations - in a convenient online package.
- Dozens of self-assessment questions so you can practice applying what you've learned.
- Up to 17.75 AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™.
- And more!

Click here to learn more and get your copy.

ARE YOU READY FOR SUNSHINE ACT IMPLEMENTATION?

Implementation of the Physician Payments Sunshine Act (also known as the Open Payments program) begins on August 1, 2013. To help you navigate the new rules, the ACC recently hosted a webinar on June 27 that provided an overview of the law, explained how it will affect interactions between physicians and industry. It was a very informative webinar. View Webinar.

UPDATES ON STANDARDS FOR IMAGING FROM THE
As of July 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will require ALL claims including CPT codes for transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) (0256T, 0257T, 0258T, 0259T, 33361, 33362, 33363, 33364, 33365 and 0318T) to contain the following before they will issue reimbursement:

- Clinical trial registry number (an eight digit number preceded by "CT")
- Q0 modifier
- Secondary diagnosis code of V70.7 (examination of participant in clinical trial)

For more information click here. Remember you MUST participate in the registry if you are doing TAVR.

With the growing prevalence of TAVR procedures, it is important that physicians and STS/ACC TVT Registry™ team members be aware of the importance of capturing complete and accurate data for all registry patients. One of the conditions included in CMS’ National Coverage Determination for TAVR procedures is participation in the STS/ACC TVT Registry™ with 100 percent of all TVT Registry data captured for each patient. Among the data required is the Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire (KCCQ) for all patients at baseline, 30-day and 1-year follow up. CMS has expressed concerns that some sites have not consistently captured all TVT Registry data, especially the KCCQ required fields. Sites that need assistance implementing the KCCQ are encouraged to contact the TVT Registry at (800) 257-4737 or tvtregistry@tvregistry.org for support.

Upcoming Events

CARDIAC CARE ASSOCIATE EVENT - SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST MANAGEMENT WITH A WEARABLE CARdioverter DEFibrillator

Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 6:00 pm
Maggiano's Schaumburg
1901 E. Woodfield | Schaumburg, IL 60173
RSVP to Nancy Mueller at 630-528-4250

Presented by: Dr. Robert J. Koch. DO. FACC. Lake Heart Specialists. Libertyville. IL.
EVENT FLYER

FALL FELLOWS-IN-TRAINING/EARLY CAREER MEMBERS PROGRAM: PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE IN CARDIOLOGY

Thursday, October 3, 2013
Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive | Chicago, Illinois 60611

Visit the Event Home Page for additional information or to register.

SIXTH ANNUAL CARDIAC CARE ASSOCIATE SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, November 2, 2013
Lindner Conference Center
610 East Butterfield Road | Lombard, Illinois 60148

Watch the CCA 2013 Event Home Page for additional information.

2ND ANNUAL SPORTS CARDIOLOGY SUMMIT

October 4-5, 2013
Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare

Course Directors: Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC and Christine E. Lawless, MD, FACC

Learn More

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information provided in this newsletter, please email us at ilacc@ilacc.org