Dear Colleagues -

It is hard to believe the Holidays are here -- please accept my best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a joyous, healthy new Year! 2013 is starting out to be a challenging year for us in cardiology -- so please read all the critical updates below.

Following our very successful "leg" conference in September we continued to have a very busy fall. Our FIT's, under the incredible leadership of Dr. Michael Tempelhof, Dr. John Ryan, and Dr. Dina Sparano held a very successful evening session on the business side of cardiology. National speakers updated them on resume/CV writing and interviewing skills, what to look for in a position be it academic, private, or integrated, and our very own Sandeep Mangalmurti, MD, JD presented the latest in cardiac medical malpractice trends. The Illinois Fellows are hard at work preparing for the poster session on February 20th so if you are interested in helping let Dr. Tempelhof know!
There are MANY changes coming in 2013 - physician value based purchasing, reductions in EP and PCI codes, payment penalties, and public reporting of YOUR data so please read below. If there is anything your Chapter can do to better to help you practice cardiovascular medicine please let us know.

Hope to see many of you at ACC 2013 in San Francisco!

Marc......

Marc Shelton, MD
IL ACC Governor

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<th>Important News</th>
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<td><strong>New Codes -- reduced payment!!</strong></td>
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<td>As we anticipated CMS proceeded to dramatically reduce our PCI and EP reimbursement through new codes. ACC has an excellent talk that is available on Cardiosource.</td>
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<td>Most important --- new CPT codes have been created to report PCI as well as bundled EP studies with ablation. Additionally, the physician work RVUs that were finalized resulted in physician work RVU reductions of roughly 20 percent to the family of PCI codes and roughly 27 percent to the family of EP/ablation codes. The ACCF/AMA CPT Reference Guide for Cardiovascular Coding is your one-stop resource for navigating these coding changes. <a href="CardioSource.org">Learn more and order your copy</a>.</td>
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<th>You asked and we LISTENED</th>
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<td>Your Board of Governors was very vocal regarding the impact of the appropriateness wording for many of our tests and procedures. Much discussion and work went into evaluating and assessing the &quot;appropriate&quot; wording! I am very pleased to announce that beginning with our new document on mode selection the following identifiers will be used: Appropriate; Maybe Appropriate; and Rarely Appropriate. It is trusted this will help with public perception that cardiologists are ahead of the curve and really working on using evidenced based medicine for the care of our patients.</td>
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<th>Physicians and Value based Purchasing -- THIS IS IMPORTANT</th>
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<td>CMS is progressively implementing requirements included in the Affordable Care Act of 2009 that call for &quot;value-based purchasing&quot; (VBP) in all major payment systems in Medicare. In order for this to happen - which is mandated by law - data from 2013 will be used. It is critical that everyone...</td>
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understand that as these various programs are implemented, data from prior years is often used to determine the payment reduction. So PLEASE make sure your practice is ready. Even if you are not in a large group -- you will need to begin preparation because it is anticipated that 2015 data will be used for ALL physicians in payment adjustments in 2017.

In 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin phasing in payment adjustments for quality and cost of care starting with groups of 100 or more professionals who opt-in. While participation in value-based payment will be voluntary at first, CMS intends that all physicians' payments will be adjusted in 2017 using a value-based modifier. The ACC hosted a webinar on Dec. 4 to help practices to get ready for value-based purchasing initiatives that were outlined in the 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Get the information, instruction and resources you need to understand the implications.

In Illinois our Resource Reports ARE available for anyone in a group of 25 or more-- so make sure you are downloading and accessing this critical information that WILL impact your reimbursement. These reports contain INDIVIDUALIZED information on the quality and cost of care furnished to your Medicare patients. To view a sample copy [click here](https://www.qrurinfo.com/qrur/procertex/lookup/qrurLoad.do). Here is the WPS link for Illinois

To access your practice reports, you will need your Tax Identification Number (TIN), National Provider Identification (NPI), and Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN) for at least 3 members of your group in order to get reports for all members of your group.

Please be advised that the ACC is convening a group of chapter champions to critique the QRUR and provide feedback to the CMS with the aim of achieving a better product.

Value-based purchasing involves three major elements for YOU the physicians:

1. Confidential feedback on performance and resource use - described above
2. Public Reporting - make sure you visit physician compare to see your profile
3. Payment adjustment/value modifier - Value-based purchasing initiatives included in the final 2013 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule highlight new trends that greatly impact physician practice, and underscore the need for practices to be ready for value-based purchasing and public reporting efforts.

**PQRS, eRx, and Meaningful Use**

Just a reminder, as CMS continues to try to align these programs there are many changes for 2013.

Among the most critical to know are:

1. New definitions of a Group - critical for Value Based Purchasing Reporting. Groups are now defined as 2-22; 23-99, and greater than 99.
2. Some measures have been retired or changed - so make sure your EHR is ready for that 1/1/13. Of note, measure 124 (the use of an EHR was retired so make sure you pick a new measure to report on!) is CRITICAL.
3. The PQRS penalty starts in 2015 -- and if you are not successful
you WILL see a payment reduction. They will be using 2013 data to determine this penalty so you MUST be participating in PQRS next year!! They have simplified the requirements for 2013 if you want to avoid the penalty.

For more information on PQRS [click here](#). For more information on eRx [click here](#).

### Upcoming Events

#### Practice Management Symposium

The Practice Management Symposium is Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Hyatt Lodge at McDonald's Campus in Oak Brook. More details to follow.

#### CV Summit: January 10 - January 12, 2013

The practice of cardiovascular medicine and surgery is changing rapidly. Cardiovascular specialists and health care executives need to enhance their knowledge of the evolving health care environment to ensure the clinical and business success of new practice models and clinical care program designs. The Cardiovascular Summit will help you effect positive change in your practice environment.

[Click here for more information](#)

#### The Fellows-In-Training Cardiology Research Symposium

The Illinois Chapter is hosting its Annual Fellows-In-Training (FIT), Cardiology Research Symposium on February 20, 2013, at the Intercontinental Hotel, Chicago. This is an excellent chance for Cardiology Fellows to present their research and receive feedback from established cardiologists from the greater Chicago area. The venue is an excellent networking opportunity for fellows and IL-ACC members to collaborate with one another. Research posters and presentations will be judged for originality, scientific rigor and eloquence. The winner will receive the "2013 Illinois Chapter of the American College of Cardiology Research Presentation of the Year Award" and a monetary reward. Last year's symposium was a tremendous success with 38 posters presented and three fellows were awarded for their outstanding research and presentations.

[Click here for more information](#)
**ACC.13**

The 62nd Annual Scientific Session and Expo is being held March 9-11, 2013 in San Francisco.

[Click here for more information](#)

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**The Best of ACC 2013 -- right here in Illinois**

The Best of ACC.13: Take Home Message for the Clinician will provide the most cutting-edge science and education from the world's premier cardiology event, ACC.13, in an innovative, one and a half day course. The event is April 5-6, 2013 at the Radisson Blu in Chicago.

[Click here for more information](#)

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the information provided in this newsletter, please email us at [ilacc@ilacc.org](mailto:ilacc@ilacc.org)