



Illinois  
CHAPTER

September/2012

### Upcoming Events

[Mission: Lifeline  
Conference  
10/12/2012](#)

[CATCH Meeting  
10/20/2012](#)

[CCA Program  
11/3/2012](#)

[CV Summit  
01/10/2013-  
01/12/2013](#)



Dear Colleagues -

What a great honor I had as your Governor to lead an exceptional team of cardiology leaders when we "stormed" the Hill last Tuesday. The entire cardiac team was represented with our esteemed physician colleagues, FIT's (yes we had 3 with us!), CCA's (2), and Administrators (3) each bringing a clear and distinct message to our Senators and Congressional representatives and their teams. We covered a wide range of topics that are important to every one of us practicing today in this health care climate. The disruption of access to care related to the ongoing imaging cuts (aka multiple reductions), SGR, sequestration, and payment reform topped our list of hot topics.

We asked for their help in ensuring that the in office ancillary exception rule (that piece of the law that allows cardiologists to perform certain tests in their offices) not be used as a "pay for" for SGR reform. Asking that as they "kick the can" down the road in SGR reform that they give our practices at least 1 year reprieve - not a month or two!

If you weren't able to make it to Washington please remember YOUR advocacy is critical! Join the PAC, visit your congressional or local Senate office - meet the health aide - get to KNOW them. We MUST teach them what we do and give them resources to tap when they have questions.

There is a lot of critical information in this news letter - I encourage you to scroll down and send to your Partners and administrator so your Illinois Chapter can better serve your needs. As a reminder the CV summit is scheduled for January 10-12, 2013 see below for more information on this critical meeting!

I hope this finds you all enjoying the fall weather and if there is anything we can do please let us know!

Marc.....

Marc Shelton, MD  
IL ACC Governor

# Important News

## Welcome to new Councilors

WE cannot do it without YOU! Thank you to the following Physicians who stepped up to volunteer their time to help make IL the BEST Chapter.

### Our new Councilors are:

#### Dr. Paul Freier-Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Erica Engelstein  
Dr. Edgar Carell  
Dr. John Furiasse  
Dr. R Parker McRae  
Dr. Roberto Pacheco-Coronado  
Dr. Prasanna Kumar

#### Alternates

Dr. Ajay Baddi  
Dr. Gary Schaer  
Dr. Mladen Vidovich  
Dr. Ajanta De  
Dr. David Marmor  
Dr. Jason Robin  
Dr. Alex Javois  
Dr. Peter Kerwin  
Dr. Joseph Stella  
Dr. Mark Hiser  
Dr. Theodore Addai  
Dr. Raed Al-Dallow

If you are interested next year in running be on the lookout for our call for nominations in the beginning of the year.

## \$\$\$\$ Does the new proposed fee schedule matter to YOU???

Yes it does - there is a lot of critical information in this 2013 fee schedule - here are some critical highlights.

- 1) If you have NOT been reporting PQRS (and only 29% of physicians have participated) please understand that if you do not submit data in 2013 you WILL be penalized. Don't let this creep up like the eRx did for so many groups.
- 2) If you are in a Group over 25 physicians you will be participating in the physician value based purchasing program (like the hospital program this is specific to physicians. We will provide links on our web site for further information, Bottom line if you successfully participate in PQRS in 2013 you can avoid this penalty.
- 3) If you are not in a group over 25 your turn is coming but you will have at least another year to prepare.
- 4) Multiple reduction proposal - if you perform 2 or more tests on the same day - one of the tests will be eligible for a 25% reduction in the technical fee. [Follow this link for more information](#)
- 5) While there is much more - we will wait for the final schedule to be released in late fall but be aware that the RUC committee did submit RVU changes for PCI and EKG also underwent analysis - final verdict? We do not know and won't know until the final fee schedule but ACC will release information as soon as it is available.

Read ACC's comments on the 2013 fee schedule here: [click here](#)

## Key reimbursement info

- 1) United and Aetna's preauthorization is firmly in place for device implants and PCI. See the end of this section for links to documents related to this topic.
- 2) United has announced their new preauthorization program for Echo and Stress Echo - while only for Medicare Advantage it poses yet another administrative burden on our practices and increases patient access issues. [Click this link to review the document.](#)
- 3) RAC, MAC and other attacks-there are many audits and probes occurring daily throughout Illinois. Your Chapter is trying to keep information on these current and timely. While much of the audit focus is on hospital data - they are creeping into the office as well. Patient status, single/dual chamber device implants, and other medical necessity audits continue to move quickly. If you are interested in a webcast on these topics please email [nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com](mailto:nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com) and if there is enough interest we will host a webcast on this for you and/or administrator.
- 4) The DOJ has released its resolution document - [follow this link to review](#). Know that ACC and HRS are working closely in evaluating how best to review the current National Coverage Decision.

It has been noted through [facts and figures](#), that approximately 70 percent of appealed Part B overpayment determinations were overturned. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently released a report showing that of the 20,406 Part B claims overpayment determinations appealed, 14,352 were decided in favor of practitioners. These numbers do not reflect instances, in which the reason for the denial is upheld, but the claim is corrected and the practitioner rebills using the appropriate code(s). Given the high likelihood of error, the ACC strongly recommends that those receiving an overpayment determination from a Recovery Auditor (formerly known as Recovery Audit Contractor or RAC) consider appealing that determination.

United and Aetna preauthorization links mentioned above:

**Aetna:**

[Aetna-ICD EP MedSolutions Notification Letter Mar-12.pdf](#)  
[Aetna-MedSolutions ICD and CRT-D Eff 06012012.pdf](#)

**United:**

[2012 Advance Notification List.pdf](#)  
[7.13.12UHC Specialty Center Packet of Docs Jul-12.pdf](#)  
[8.27.12 Important Changes In Notification and Prior Authorization Procedures.pdf](#)  
[2012 Changes to Advance Admission Notification Requirements.pdf](#)  
[2012 Physician Letter advanced notification.pdf](#)  
[100-6088 UHC Admin Guide 2012.pdf](#)

## Don't miss out on Meaningful Use

### Reporting MU in 2012

Wednesday, October 3rd is the last day for Eligible Providers to begin their 90 Day Reporting Period for calendar year 2012 for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. This means that providers must collect data for a 90 day consecutive period from October 3rd through December 31st, to be eligible for the Meaningful Use incentive payment in 2012. There are a number of tools to help prepare for attestation on the CMS website. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in this Medicare EHR incentive program.

### Key Points for Stage 2 MU

- Stage 2 has more core measures, fewer menu measures and higher thresholds
  - 17 core measures
  - 3 of 6 menu measures
  - Increase in % needed for compliance
- All providers who have already participated and attested in phase 1 MU will be able to attest for a 3 month reporting period for phase 2 beginning in 2014
  - The 3 month reporting period is fixed to the quarter based on Calendar Year
  - Jan-March, April-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec
- To avoid the 2015 penalty, providers must attest to MU in the 2013 reporting period
- Providers beyond their 1st year of MU in 2014 must submit CQMs electronically in 2014
- Stage 2 includes batch attestation which means groups will be allowed to submit attestation

information for all MDs in one file

- Attestation results will still be on a per provider basis

To get further information on Stage 2, [click this link](#).

## ICD10

While this has been pushed back 1 year to 10/1/14 - it is coming! Is your practice prepared? What can we do to help?

## Hospital Echo and E&M -- Still Having Issues?

Remember this topic? Well ACC and ASE were very successful in getting this reversed. You should no longer be having any issues with reimbursement for same day of service with a hospital E&M and echo. For details on the changes and a link to the letter you can use with your payor(s) [click here](#). If you are still having issues please let us know.

The letter states that changes will be effective starting between Oct. 1, 2012, and Jan. 1, 2013, depending on the software system. The ACC and ASE recommend that cardiovascular professionals continue to bill these procedures with the most appropriate modifier. Feel free to attach the letter to any affected claim appeal submissions.

## New consensus Document for Dual and Single Chamber Pacemakers

HRS and ACCF recently released the expert consensus statement on pacemaker device and mode selection. [Here is the link](#). As we all know the National Coverage Decision is very old and our specialty societies are busy working on solutions - stay tuned

## Upcoming Events

### Illinois Mission: Lifeline Conference

**Friday, October 12, 2012, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST**  
**Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois, 60018**

Save the date for the Illinois Mission: Lifeline Conference presented by the American Heart Association in partnership with the Illinois ACC Chapter. This is a free conference, but pre-registration is requested. The intended audience includes cardiologists, emergency physicians, EMS leaders, pre-hospital providers, STEMI coordinators and others interested in improving emergency heart care throughout Illinois.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

### CATCH Meeting: October 20, 2012

**Saturday, October 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST**  
**The W Chicago Lakeshore**  
**644 North Lake Shore Drive**  
**Chicago, IL 60611**

Launch meeting of the Chicago Adult Congenital Heart Network

[CLICK HERE FOR EVENT INFO](#)

# Cardiac Care Associate Symposium: November 3, 2012

**November 3, 2012 at the Lindner Center in Lombard.**

**Topics to include:**

Re-admission of CHF&MI Patients, Pharma update, and women & heart disease.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## 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](#)

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)

[Forward email](#)



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