



March 2014

Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE TMCMS PRESIDENT

By Kevin Roscoe, MD

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the victims involved in the March 22nd Oso landslide. Certainly an incomprehensible tragedy that is unfolding before us, our fellow Washingtonians and our nation. It seems to keep hitting us over and over this month as the recovery efforts continue with new victim tolls reported on a daily basis. Quite heart breaking. We also hope for the speedy recovery of the survivors.

Our first full board trustee meeting set out to prioritize the year and to develop a strategic plan for 2014. It was a very productive and energetic meeting. We welcomed the newest members and discussed adding an at-large member to the group for a one year commitment and will be contacting folks to see who might be interested in filling that chair. I am very excited about this year.

Please think about joining your colleagues this year at the WSMA Leadership Conference in Lake Chelan on May 16th and 17th at the Campbell's Resort. A surprisingly refreshing and fun informative conference.

A NEW TMCMS WEBSITE IS COMING

The TMCMS is planning to update its website this year and we want to hear from you. Please let us know what information you would like to see on the website. You can send your comments to Jena Layton at jlayton@tmcms.org. A website design committee chaired by Dr. Dominique Coco has been formed and is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in working with this committee please contact Jena Layton.

2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Washington State Legislature adjourned Thursday evening, March 13, marking the last day of a 60-day legislative session. The WSMA was successful in passing several strong physician-friendly pieces of legislation and stopping (or amending) legislation that was considered potentially harmful for physicians and patients.

Legislative Highlights

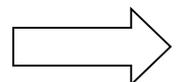
Exchange grace period (SB 6016) Patients insured by qualified health plans offered via the exchange have a 90-day grace period to pay their premiums. If a patient fails to pay, the insurance company is responsible for paying claims for the first 30 days—after that, the patient is responsible for their unpaid medical bills. The new law requires the patient's insurer to provide notification to the physician that the patient has entered the grace period. Washington is the first state to pass legislation requiring notification by insurers regarding the grace period.

Tanning bed restrictions (SB 6065) After several years of being introduced and defeated, tanning bed restrictions have finally passed—prohibiting the use of ultraviolet tanning devices for persons under 18 years of age (unless as prescribed by a physician).

Breast density mandatory reporting (SB 6050) - This legislation, successfully defeated by the WSMA, would have required a "lay letter" sent to a patient who has heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts. As a compromise the WSMA will continue to work with the sponsors of the bill to require the Bree Collaborative and the Health Technology Assessment Committee to consider addressing the issue.

All-payer claims database (SB 2572) The state will create and implement an all-payer claims database (to include claims

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from state and federal monies only). The bill suffered a setback when a provision requiring private insurers to participate was removed from the bill. The resulting legislation remains an important step towards transparency.

Pricing transparency (SB 6228) Insurers will now be required to post on their websites certain cost and quality information for consumers. The WSMA was able to amend the legislation to ensure the consumer-posted online feedback is monitored for appropriateness and validity and allow for the inclusion of independent quality of care ratings. The bill also requires a stakeholder committee, including the WSMA as a member, to recommend statewide measures of health performance.

Prior authorization (SB 6511) The bill requires a work group to produce recommendations for streamlining the process by which physicians get approval for certain health care services and medications from an insurance company. The recommendations will be submitted to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner for review. This legislation also grants the OIC authority to initiate rulemaking should the work group fail to produce recommendations.

Reimbursement for health care records (SB 2074) The WSMA succeeded in defeating a bill that would have limited the amount of reimbursement allowed for a physician to furnish health care records under the Uniform Health Care Information Act.

Balance billing (SB 6302) – The WSMA defeated a bill that would have prevented physicians from balancing billing or attempting to recover excess unpaid funds from a covered patient beyond the cost sharing, coinsurance or deductible required in the health plan contract.

For a complete list of the WSMA’s legislative review of the 2014 Session please visit the WSMA website.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

At the WSMA annual meeting last September, Rachel Reeg and the TMCMS delegates introduced and were successful in getting passed Resolution C-9 – Treatment of Exposed Person for Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Occurring When Acting as a Good Samaritan. As part of the WSMA’s legislative agenda for 2014, the Good Samaritan Bill HB 2530 was introduced and on February 18 was unanimously passed out of the House.

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The bill then failed to get out of the Senate due to fiscal concerns regarding payment for testing. The TMCMS remains committed to this important legislation and will continue to push for its passage next year.

PEER REVIEW WORKGROUP SURVEY

WSMA has formed a Peer Review Workgroup in response to a House of Delegates Resolution related to the status of peer review in Washington State. To help the workgroup evaluate the scope of any Medical Staff peer review problems, the workgroup has set up a brief survey regarding Medical Staff peer review. The WSMA is asking for as many physicians as possible to participate in the survey and share their experiences.

The last day to complete the survey is April 2, 2014. Please take a moment to help the WSMA’s Peer Review Workgroup evaluate peer review in Washington State. Follow this link to complete the survey. You may contact Denny Maher, Director of Legal Affairs, at dpm@wsma.org with any questions you may have.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSMA_Peer_Review.

ORAL HEALTH COALITION MEETING

The newly formed Oral Health Coalition held its first meeting at the Union Gospel Mission on February 25. Participants included representatives from private practice, both dentists and physicians, public health and non-profits serving our local community. Kathy O-Meara-Wyman from ABCD (Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Program) spoke about the program and encouraged physicians to continue to promote dental care at all well child check-ups. The next meeting of the Oral Health Coalition will be April 22 at 5:30 PM at the Union Gospel Mission. The main topic will be adult access to care and how the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion has impacted access

Resources for Physicians

Did you know that the Washington Dental Service Foundation provides complimentary in-office Continuing Medical Education (CME) training that takes approximately 90 minutes and addresses:

- Dental disease and the impact on families and communities,
- The link between oral health and overall health,
- Providing oral health education and anticipatory guidance to clients and families,
- Hands-on practice applying fluoride varnish (and how to bill for this service).

Nearly 1 in 3 primary care medical providers across the state have been trained to deliver preventive oral health care during well-child checks. Medicaid reimburses trained and certified primary care medical providers for delivering oral screenings, oral health education, and fluoride varnish applications.

Providers also refer children to a dentist for follow-up care as needed.

Training materials, parent education tools and fluoride varnish samples are provided, along with ongoing technical support. To learn more visit Washington Dental Service Foundation's KidsOralHealth.org website or contact Madlen Caplow at mcaplow@deltadentalwa.com to schedule an in-office training.

DON'T MISS THESE INFORMATIVE WEBINAR CME OPPORTUNITIES

The WSMA Foundation for Health Care Improvement is offering CME opportunities through the Clinical Performance Improvement Network (CPIN). These webinars are designed to assist physician practices efforts on quality improvement.

Choosing Wisely: Frontline Strategies

Wednesday, April 23, 12:15-1:15

Engaging Patients in Collaborative Care Plans: Self-Management Support to Increase Quality

Wednesday, May 28, 12:15-1:15

Patient Communication

Wednesday, June 25, 12:15-1:15

For more information and to register for these webinars visit www.wsma.org/wsma-foundation

WSMA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The annual WSMA Leadership Development conference is fast approaching. This always popular and highly informative conference will be held at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan on May 16-17. Reserve your spot now at the WSMA website and make your hotel reservation before April 15 to receive the conference discounted rate.

The keynote speaker is David Maxfield, a New York Times bestselling author and leading social scientist for organizational change. David will be speaking on creating sustainable change. For thirty years, David has delivered engaging keynotes at prestigious venues including Stanford and Georgetown Universities. David is the coauthor of three immediate New York Times bestsellers: *Influencer*, *Crucial Accountability* and *Change Anything*.

For the past thirty years, David has conducted social science research to help leaders and organizations achieve new levels of performance.

Specifically, he has focused on human behavior—the underlying written and unwritten rules that shape what employees do every day. A respected academic, David has taught at Stanford University and the Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University. He is the recipient of the Motorola University's Distinguished Teaching Award and Stanford University's Dean's Award for Innovative Industrial Education.

For a complete agenda and to register visit the WSMA website at www.wsma.org and click on "leadership and development" under the Education and Events section.

RENEW YOUR MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to renew your medical society membership. WSMA and TMCMS dues are paid on an annual basis beginning January 1. This year you can renew your membership online at the WSMA's website.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- The 2014 WSMA Leadership Development Conference will be held May 16-17 at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan.
- The 2014 Annual Session of the WSMA House of Delegates will be held September 20-21 at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel.

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For membership information, please contact the Medical Society office at 360.352.1417.

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