

# COMMUNIQUE



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

## Help OSMA Capture Data About Problems With Insurance Companies

Do you feel like they're getting the run around by the insurers? Do you need a place to voice your complaints? The OSMA needs your stories. Please take a few minutes to complete the complaint form on **Page 2** so the OSMA can gather data on unfair practices by health insurers. Your confidential responses will help the OSMA in its fight to level the playing field with the payers. All responses are confidential.

## New AAP Reports Help Pediatricians Identify and Manage Autism Earlier

Two new clinical reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) will help pediatricians recognize autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) earlier and guide families to effective interventions, which will ultimately improve the lives of children with ASDs and their families. The first clinical report, "Identification and Evaluation of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders," ([www.aap.org/pressroom/AutismID.pdf](http://www.aap.org/pressroom/AutismID.pdf)) provides detailed information on signs and symptoms so pediatricians can recognize and assess ASDs in their patients. Language delays usually prompt parents to raise concerns to their child's pediatrician – usually around 18 months of age. However, there are earlier subtle signs that if detected could lead to earlier diagnosis. An Autism checklist for parents can be found here: <http://www.utmem.edu/pediatrics/general/clinical/m-chat.pdf>.

The report advises pediatricians to be cognizant of signs of ASD, as well as other developmental concerns, at every well-child visit by simply asking the parents if they or their child's other caregivers have any concerns about their child's development or behavior. If concerns are present that may relate to ASD, the clinician is advised to use a standardized screening tool. The report also introduces universal screening, which means pediatricians conduct formal ASD screening on all children at 18 and 24 months regardless of whether there are any concerns.

Educational strategies and associated therapies, which are the cornerstones of treatment for ASDs, are reviewed in the second AAP clinical report, "Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders." (<http://www.aap.org/pressroom/AutismMgmt.pdf>) Early intervention is crucial for effective treatment. The report strongly advises intervention as soon as an ASD diagnosis is seriously considered rather than deferring until a definitive diagnosis is made. The child should be actively engaged in intensive intervention at least 25 hours per week, 12 months per year with a low student-to-teacher ratio allowing for sufficient one-on-one time. Parents should also be included.

## Important Information Regarding The Academy of Medicine Retired Fellows Health Insurance Plan

A newly retired physician has 30 days from the date of retirement in which to join The Academy's health insurance plan. If the physician does not do so within 30 days, they are ineligible to do so at a later date. When planning for your retirement, remember to check into The Academy Retired Fellows Health Insurance Plan. **If you have any questions regarding the plan, please contact Jan Schutt by phone at 419/471.3131 or via e-mail at [jm.schutt@gmail.com](mailto:jm.schutt@gmail.com).**

## Donate New or Gently Used Textbooks

Dr. Glenn Carlson is collecting surgery, surgical subspecialties, anesthesia, pediatrics and nursing textbooks for Gabon, Africa. Recent editions in good condition will be sent to Bongolo Teaching Hospital in Gabon in late December, 2007, so Dr. Carlson must have them by December 15. Donations are tax deductible as they are being donated to a 501(c)(3) organization. **If you have textbooks to donate, please contact Dr. Carlson at 419/304.1378.**

## Academy/Hospital Joint Meeting

The next Academy of Medicine/Hospital Joint Meeting will be hosted by The University of Toledo Medical Center and will be held on Thursday, November 29, at 6:00 pm at the Toledo Hilton. The keynote speaker will be Alvin D. Jackson, MD, Director of the Ohio Department of Health. Formal invitations have been mailed.

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## Complaint and Action Form

The OSMA is collecting information about your issues and challenges in dealing with insurance companies. Any feedback you can provide is valuable to us. Your responses will drive our advocacy efforts whether they are global legislative action or helping you resolve a specific issue.

Indicate which payer you have an issue or complaint against (please complete a separate form for each complaint):

- Aetna                       Anthem                       Cigna                       Humana                       MMO                       UHC
- Medicare                       Medicare Managed Care                       Medicaid                       Medicaid Managed Care
- Workers' Comp                       Other

Please indicate your problem (*Please check the one issue that is most applicable for this complaint*):

### Benefit/Coverage/Customer Service

- Denial of prior authorization
- Denial of referral request
- Drug formulary issue
- Medical policies
- Ineffective customer service
- Coordination of benefits
- Patient coverage/deductibles

### Adjudication/Payment

- Delay in payment
- Request for additional info
- Audit/takeback

### Claim/Coding

- Excessive claim denial
- Down-coding or recoding of claims
- Loss of claims or attachments

### Other

- P4P/tiered networks
- Most favored payer clauses
- Credentialing

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Complaint/issue detail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your expectations regarding OSMA actions on this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like us to contact you regarding this issue?     Yes     No    (*If you checked "Yes", you must provide your contact information.*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## IN MEMORIAM

DONALD B. CAMPBELL, MD  
 9.4.1936 - 9.21.2007  
 GENERAL SURGERY

THOMAS W. MAHONEY, JR., MD  
 8.3.1927 - 9.22.2007  
 OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

CHARLES H. KLIPPEL, MD  
 9.25.1920 - 10.11.2007  
 PEDIATRIC SURGERY

RASPAL S. BHUMBRA, MD  
 9.19.1945 - 10.14.2007  
 NEUROLOGY

### If you'd like to say THANKS...

Academy members have the opportunity to say thanks to office support personnel and service bureau operators for their assistance by sending donations to The Academy of Medicine's holiday gift plan. If you'd like to donate, please send your contribution to:

THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE  
 HOLIDAY FUND  
 4428 SECOR ROAD  
 TOLEDO, OHIO 43623

Our staff thank you for your consideration and wish you the happiest of holiday seasons!

## SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO YOUR COLLEAGUES

Want a convenient way to say happy holidays to your colleagues while helping The Academy of Medicine's Foundation Fund? All you have to do is fill out this form and send it to The Academy with your donation to the Foundation Fund. The Foundation Fund supports many worthwhile activities, including scholarships to medical students at The University of Toledo College of Medicine. Donations in lieu of holiday cards will be acknowledged in the December *Communiqué*.

Please PRINT Names

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to The Academy of Medicine Foundation Fund, and send to The Academy of Medicine, 4428 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623. PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 1!

HOT TOPICS STATE NEWS AMA NEWS PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ISSUES POLICY NEWS COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES  
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 MEMBERS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF TOLEDO AND LUCAS COUNTY TORT REFORM

**CLASSIFIED AD**

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Call **Dr. Stacy Bowen** at 419.473.9210.

**We're cleaning house. Send in your updated information today.**

At The Academy of Medicine, we are continually updating and making improvements to our email directory, referral files, membership roster and website ([www.toledomedicine.org](http://www.toledomedicine.org)). If you have made any recent changes, please send updated information to Carol at [cmosbacher@gmail.com](mailto:cmosbacher@gmail.com). If you would like to receive website updates and a FREE online subscription to selected articles from Toledo Medicine and the Communiqué, please type "subscribe" in the subject header of an email and send it to [joey.begeman@gmail.com](mailto:joey.begeman@gmail.com).

**APPLICATIONS**

**JANNA K. GELDERMAN-MOFFETT, DO**  
 Internal Medicine

**MURTHY GOKULA, MD**  
 Family Medicine/Geriatrics

**CHERYLYN M. SHURTZ, MD**  
 Pediatrics

**GEOFFREY E. SULTANA, MD**  
 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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**106TH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, January 10, 2008**



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