

COMMUNIQUE



MARCH 2008

Ohio Senate Passes House Bill 125

On March 11, 2008 the Ohio Senate unanimously passed Am. Sub House Bill 125 – the Healthcare Simplification Act, which has been spearheaded by the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA).

The bill is composed of common-sense reforms that bring more balance, uniformity and clarity to interactions between physicians and HMOs. It will bring transparency to the contracting process, fairness in contracting, and a standardized and time-efficient physician credentialing process.

“This legislation will help eliminate bureaucratic, unfair and anti-competitive practices imposed on physicians by Ohio’s HMOs and other health insurers,” said OSMA President Craig W. Anderson, MD, a Columbus neonatologist. “We look forward to this bill being enacted so that there can be more balance and fairness in the contracting process between physicians and health insurers.”

The OSMA has been pursuing legislative and other remedies to problems that Ohio’s physicians and patients have been encountering when dealing with Ohio’s HMOs and other health insurers.

The bill will go to the Ohio House of Representatives for a vote of concurrence and then will go to Governor Ted Strickland for his signature.

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day will shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. WAAD activities will help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and will impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD will celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism and will be a day when individuals with autism are warmly welcomed and embraced in community events around the globe. To find out more about how you can participate go to www.autismspeaks.org. To participate in local WAAD events, please visit www.aboutprojectiam.com.

2008 OSMA & OMSS Annual Meetings

The 2008 OSMA (Ohio State Medical Association) Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton Town Center, 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, on May 2-4, 2008. The OSMA Annual Meeting provides members an opportunity to learn more about priority issues of the OSMA and actively participate in policy discussions of the organization.

On Friday, May 2, there will be a Practice Management Symposium, “Effective Strategies to Navigate Turbulent Times”, from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. There will also be an Exhibits Display during the symposium.

The 2008 OMSS (Organized Medical Staff Section) Annual Business and Education Meeting will also be held on Friday, May 2. Registration will begin at 11:00 am and lunch and the meeting will begin at noon.

Registration for the OSMA Annual Meeting will begin at 7:00 am on Saturday, May 3, and the OSMA House of Delegates will open at 9:30 am. Resolutions Committees will begin at 10:30 am. The Women in Medicine Reception is scheduled from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, the OSMA-PAC Reception from 6:00 - 7:00 pm and the President’s Inauguration and Reception will begin at 7:00 pm. District caucus meetings will begin at 7:00 am on Sunday, May 4, and the House of Delegates will open at 10:00 am with elections and committee reports.

For more information and to register for the Practice Management Symposium, OSMA and OMSS Annual Meetings, email OSMA at info@osma.org or go to the OSMA web site at www.osma.org.

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Traditional Certificate Of Deposit Alternatives

While the current lower rate interest environment makes borrowing less expensive and more attractive, it presents challenges for clients looking for high-yield vehicles to invest idle deposit dollars. The traditional certificate of deposit rates are significantly lower than a year ago, and the opportunity cost of tying up funds in this product may not make sense for your personal situation at this time. Are there alternatives to consider?



There may be other traditional bank accounts that could be appropriate, such as higher-yielding savings accounts*. Some clients who prefer the more fixed yields may look at municipal bonds, corporate bonds, or municipal floaters, which mature normally on a 7 or 14-day basis. The potential tax benefits of municipal bonds are also attractive features for some clients.

A relatively newer product clients may consider is a structured equity-linked note. This investment vehicle is linked to the performance of a pre-defined index. Certain structures may provide yield enhancement over traditional or "vanilla" investment choices for a similar amount of risk to principal. More popular note attributes may include 100% principal protection, fixed coupons paid at maturity, unique exposure to foreign markets, currencies, or commodities. Since many of these are customized, they will vary from offering to offering.

The selection of the most appropriate investment product should be made based on personal risk tolerance, how the new product fits with your investment policy, need for liquidity, and comfort with an alternative investment compared to traditional bank deposit products.

Please consult your investment and/or tax advisor before making any investment decision to accommodate your specific financial goals, objectives, and investment situation. For further information on alternative deposit strategies, please contact:

- Erika Rizzo** (419) 259-0234
- Jane Marie Rahe** (419) 259-7869
- Martin Orr** (419) 885-6581
- Beth Meridieth** (419) 885-6552

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Toledo Bar Association Lawyers & Doctors Committee

The Lawyers and Doctors Committee of the Toledo Bar Association has as its main goal to develop and maintain good will between the legal and medical professions. The Committee offers an annual seminar, with a topic that is timely and of interest to both doctors and lawyers. It occasionally informally mediates issues of conflict between members of the two professions, such as unprofessional conduct in court issued or depositions, fee disputes or other matters. The Committee recognizes the commitment to the community of the two professions and plans to have activities together with The Academy of Medicine not just for the good of the members, but for the community as a whole.

Colon Cancer Awareness Month

March is colon cancer awareness month. The American Cancer Society recommends the following screening methods that have been shown to reduce the death rate from colon cancer.

1. Fecal occult blood testing yearly.
2. Sigmoidoscopy every five years.
3. Combination of yearly fecal occult blood testing with sigmoidoscopy every five years.
4. Barium enema every five years.
5. Colonoscopy every ten years.

Colonoscopy has been shown to reduce the incidence of developing colon cancer.

The following patients are not included in the above screening categories and should be in a surveillance category.

1. Family or personal history of colon cancer.
2. Personal history of colon polyps.
3. Personal history of inflammatory bowel disease.
4. Family history of familial adenomatous polyposis.
5. Family history of hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer.
6. Personal history of unexplained anemia.
7. Personal history of change in bowel habit.
8. Personal history of bleeding from the rectum.
9. Personal history of unexplained weight loss.

Please notify all of your patients born in 1958 of the significance of their fiftieth birthday. By attaining age fifty, they are eligible to begin colon cancer screening.

Community Health Commission Notes

HIV/AIDS – women now account for over ¼ of new HIV cases with African-American women accounting for over 2/3; March 10 was “National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.” The Ohio Department of Health has regulations affecting HIV, hepatitis C, and hepatitis B infected health care workers.

Immunizations – the ACIP of the CDC now recommends immunizing all children over 6 months of age against influenza assuming adequacy of vaccine supplies. This is particularly important in light of increasing resistance to anti-influenzal drugs and the warning of neurological complications associated with Tamiflu. The finding of increased (though small) risk of febrile seizures from the combined MMR-V vaccine compared to separate MMR and Varicella vaccinations has prompted the ACIP to issue a “no preference” vote on MMRV vaccine; Merck is reconsidering its manufacture (currently out of production). A quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine for infants (one of the highest risk groups for invasive meningococcal disease) is in final stage of testing as is a 26 valent group A streptococcal vaccine. Work is under way to enhance the conjugated pneumococcal (7 valent) vaccine with the 19A strain (currently causing a majority of invasive disease in children and resistant to many antibiotics); the 19A strain is in the adult 23 valent vaccine.

Infectious Diseases – influenza activity peaked in the U.S. in mid February; mortality was lower than expected. 2 measles outbreaks in the last 6 months – one associated with an international youth sporting event held in central Pennsylvania (primary case from Japan) and another associated with unimmunized children in San Diego (primary case from Switzerland) raise concern for improving immunization coverage and awareness for international travel. Invasive pneumococcal disease has declined over 82% in 1-2 year old since introduction of conjugate vaccine in 2000. Fluoroquinolone resistance of *N. meningitidis* is increasing (Minn. and N. Dak.) and may not be recommended for post-exposure prophylaxis.

Tobacco Use Prevention – the American Lung Association has established a goal to

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID M. KATCHKA, MD
7/11/1915 - 2/17/2008

make all states smoke free in work and public places by 2010. The World Health Organization issued a “white paper” challenging the international disgrace of tobacco advertising and sales to youth and exhorting its members to make tobacco use prevention a priority. The recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article on the marked morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use in India underscores the problem of tobacco use.

Environment – the mayor of Toledo sent a letter stating his agreement and concern for air quality associated with the new coke plant in East Toledo. The Ohio Department of Health has issued guidelines for cleanup after flooding; an information sheet is available for downloading from their web site for your patients.

Prevention – the US Multi-Society Task force on Colorectal Cancer has issued new guidelines for early detection of colorectal cancer and adenomatous polyps (*CA Cancer J Clin* 2008). CDC reports that over 1/3 of older adults fall each year; a number of effective fall prevention programs are available and need to be widely disseminated and used. Mean serum cholesterol among adults over 20 has steadily fallen from 1999 – 2006 with men making the greatest gains (mean level now 195 down from 204). Adults continue to show lack of awareness of the signs of a heart attack (less than 1/3 in the latest survey) causing concern that it can lead to delays in treatment and increased mortality.

Other news – the OSMA has warned that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will begin on site surveys for HIPAA compliance in 2008 initially focusing on hospitals and large clinical providers. The CDC has warned of increasing reports of medical equipment malfunctions and possible danger to patients and personnel from improper cleaning with disinfecting liquids.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Academy of Medicine/
St. Luke's Hospital/
Toledo Bar Association CME/
CLE Seminar

*Doctors Under Oath: A Guide to
Deposition and Trial Testimony*
Thursday, May 8, 2008
5:15 pm

St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium

Academy of Medicine/
The Toledo Hospital
Joint Meeting

*Speaker - Jeff S. Smith, Esq.,
Director of Government Relations, OSMA*
Monday, May 12, 2008
6:00 pm
Gladieux Meadows

Academy of Medicine
Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, June 5, 2008
8:30 am Shotgun
Stone Oak Country Club

Academy Night
at the Mud Hens
Wednesday, August 13
The Roost at Fifth Third Field
Dinner at 5:30 pm
First pitch at 7:00 pm

Academy of Medicine/
St. Charles Mercy Hospital
Joint Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2008
6:00 pm
St. Charles Mercy Hospital

HOT TOPICS STATE NEWS AMA NEWS PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ISSUES POLICY NEWS COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES
UPCOMING EVENTS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES & BENEFITS TIPS & TRICKS BREAKING NEWS ACADEMY MEETINGS NEW
MEMBERS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF TOLEDO AND LUCAS COUNTY TORT REFORM

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Space for Lease - 4126 Holland-Sylvania Rd. Toledo, Ohio at impressive new 61,000 sq.ft. medical office building. 18,000 sq.ft. available: build to suit with option to buy.
Call Dr. Stacy Bowen at 419.473.9210.

Academic Geriatrician - The University of Toledo Medical Center is seeking a BC/BE Geriatrician for its evolving Geriatrics Office in the Division of General Internal Medicine to provide patient care and clinical education for medical students and residents. Required qualifications include: residency-trained internist, BC/BE, and eligibility for CAQ in Geriatrics. Demonstrated experience in Geriatrics highly desirable. Exceptional opportunities and competitive salary and benefits package exist in this tertiary care/medical school setting. Interested candidates should send letter of interest and curriculum vitae to:
Cletus Iwuagwu, MD, Glendale Medical Center, 3355 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, OH 43614 or cletus.iwuagwu@utoledo.edu

April is Autism Awareness Month

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APPLICATIONS

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Family Practice