

Lafayette Parish Medical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2011

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Qualifying for EHRs Incentive Program

Like it or not, there is a major governmental push for medical practices to adopt electronic health records (EHRs). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides for incentive dollars to help eligible professionals (EPs) achieve meaningful use of certified EHRs over the next five years. However after 2015, the carrot will turn into a stick by penalizing EPs with a reduction of Medicare reimbursements by 1% per year.

There are two incentive programs, Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid's maximum incentive payment is higher than the Medicare Program (\$63,750 over 6 yrs compared to \$44,000 over 5 years). However to qualify for the Medicaid program, thirty percent of your practice must be Medicaid. EPs cannot enroll in both programs in a given year. EPs can switch programs only once during the lifetime of the program. To receive the maximum incentive dollars, the EPs must enroll by October 1st 2011 to qualify for 2011. There after, the yearly limit decreases each year.

To fulfill the policy's intention of developing a "meaningful use" HER, CMS has divided the process into three stages. Stage 1 will focus on using a certified EHR in a meaningful manner. Stage 2 will focus on development of an infrastructure to support health

information exchange (HIE) to improve the coordination of care. Stage 3 will focus on using the EHR technology to report quality measures. For the next two years, EPs are only required to complete stage 1. Requirements for Stages 2 and 3 are being developed at this time.

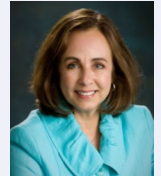
To qualify for the incentive payments, EPs must demonstrate "meaningful use" of the EHR over a one-year period. There are 15 "core" requirements and a set of "menu" requirements for providers to pick from. The definition of meaningful use can be found at www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms. You can also find this information on our website.

Fortunately, the federal government has also provided a grant to help EP adopt and implement EHRs. This grant was awarded to the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (LHCQF). Lafayette has been chosen as one of three test sites for the health information exchange initiative due to our extensive fiber network.

The time has come for us to embrace this technology. Please let us know how we can help you with this endeavor. The resources are limitless. We will keep you up-to-date on the latest news on this topic on our website (www.LPMS.org).

President's Corner

EHRs-The Good, the Ugly and the Bad



News regarding CMS regulations will involve your practice this upcoming year. You will need a certified electronic health record system. In order to facilitate this process, The Lafayette Parish Medical Society website will be posting a section on reviews of the different medical record systems so you can benefit from critical reviews, costs, and generally the good and bad comments from peers in the community. We hope this will help you make your decision. .

WE NEED YOUR REVIEWS and COMMENTS on your electronic medical record system. Sharing this information will be completely voluntary but I do hope those of you with electronic medical record systems will email Kristi your review of your own system. The more information the better. Please be forthcoming to help your friends in our medical community.

How to Implement an EHRs and Get Paid for It

LPMS would like to invite you and your staff to attend this seminar. Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum will present a seminar on the best way to implement an electronic health records system and receive incentive dollars.

OLOL Fitzsimmon's Auditorium

February, Feb 25th from 12:30 – 2:30 pm.

RSVP by calling us at 232-2860 or email us at staff@lpms.glacoxmail.com

Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum

In 2010, the federal government committed \$598 million to support Regional Extension Centers (REC) at state or regional levels to assist health care providers in achieving the goal of meaningful use of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology. The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (LHCQF), a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of medical care throughout the state has been designated as Louisiana's Regional Extension Center (REC).

They have been authorized by the department of Health and Human Services to provide technical

assistance, guidance and information to support and accelerate health care provider's efforts to adopt a meaningful use EHR.

All Louisiana health care providers are eligible for services at a reasonable fee. Providers that meet federal "priority primary care provider" qualification standards are eligible to receive discounted services.

For more information, email them at rec@lhcqf.org or view their website at www.LHCQF.org.



WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED BY THE LHCQF IT RESOURCE CENTER?

We will work with you to facilitate EHR adoption and use and provide extensive project management support. Services offered are based on the provider's current level of electronic health record adoption.

- **TIER 1:** Assistance converting from a paper office to an EHR system and then achieving meaningful use
- **TIER 2:** Assistance in achieving meaningful use if provider has an EHR system but has not implemented all required components
- **TIER 3:** Meaningful use gap analysis for a provider who has fully implemented an EHR system

Annual House of Delegates Meeting

The present day Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) was formed on January 14-16, 1878 after several failed attempts by groups of New Orleans physicians. At that very first meeting held at Tulane University Medical School, 80 physicians from 15 parishes elected officers, set up a constitution and began to propose resolutions that would govern the Society and its members.

Despite threats of icy roads and bitter cold winds (for Louisiana), the Louisiana State Medical Society met in Baton Rouge on February 4-5, 2011. Dr. Dean Griffen, Shreveport, was elected President. The very first President of the LSMS in 1878 was also from Shreveport. Dr. Andy Blalock was elected President Elect and will serve his term as President in 2012.

The Lafayette Parish Medical Society congratulates Dr. Blalock as President Elect. Dr. Vildibill was the last President of the LSMS from Lafayette Parish Medical Society in 1987-1988. Dr. Vildibill last attended the LSMS HOD in 2010. These are the only 2 Presidents of the LSMS hail from Lafayette Parish.

A complete summary of resolutions discussed at this meeting can be found on our website.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES



Dr. Trahan passed away on January 18, 2011. He joined our society in 1969 as a practicing Internist. In 2010 he retired from practice. His wife, Margaret and family are in our prayers.



Dr. Charles Stewart left us on January 22, 2011 after 50 years of service to the Lafayette Parish. Prior to retiring in December, 2010, he was an active member of our Executive Committee projecting many ideas along with stimulating conversations regarding the workings of the council. To his wife, Dr. Adrien Stewart, and family, we extend our thoughts and prayers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Christopher Ritter, MD
- Jarmon Comeaux, MD
- Matthew Landrum
- Bryan Sibley, MD
- Troy Guidry, MD
- Nancy Dubuisson, MD
- Deborah Lastrapes, MD
- Nina Hall, MD

2011 DOCTOR'S DAY HONOREES



40 Years

Gary Arnold, MD
Ray Boyer, MD
Kenneth Falterman, MD
James Lafleur MD
Maximo Lamarche, MD
Mike Mounir, MD
Juan Paredes, MD
Joseph Prejean, MD
Michael Prejean, MD
Lawrence Russell, MD
James Simon, MD
Maurice Sullivan, MD

50 Years

J Hugh Larriviere, MD
Thomas Latour, MD
David Rees, MD
Ethel Smith, MD
George Smith, MD

60 Years

Leonard Rolfes, MD

70 Years

Lawrence Swan, MD

Lafayette Parish Medical Society

*Would like to invite you and your family the
General Membership meeting*

*At Fezzo's III
800 Lions Club Rd
Scott, LA*

*on Wednesday, **March 30, 2011**
6:00-8:00 pm*

Doctor's Day Celebration

Come join us for a great evening!

We will be serving Boiled Crawfish and Jambalaya

*Please **RSVP** by **March 25th** on our website (www.LPMS.org)*

Or by phone 232-2860

Please indicate any special meal preference.



LAFAYETTE PARISH MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Type address here or use Mail Merge (under Tools) to automatically address this publication to multiple recipients.

Benefits of Membership

PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY

The political events of the past year have highlighted the great need for physicians to be involved in the LSMS and to have their voices heard in the public arena.



New Doc?

Are you new in town? We would love to feature you on our website. Send us a brief biography and picture.

Welcome to Lafayette!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Public Affairs provides media relations and communications on behalf of physicians and patients, presents a positive image of the profession with the media and the public, and works with statewide media to address healthcare issues from the physician's perspective. It also produces the publications listed below:

- The Journal of the LSMS
- Capsules newsletter
- LSMS eAlerts and legislative bulletins
- LSMS online member directory
- Listing in Independent's Acadiana Medical and Dental Directory annually.

Please consider joining us. Let us know how we can help you practice medicine.

Upcoming Events

EHRs Informational Meeting

LOLO Fitzsimmons Auditorium
February 25th at 12:30 pm

Doctor's Day Celebration

Fezzo's III, Scott, LA
March 30th at 6:00 pm

Summer General Membership Meeting

Petroleum Club
August 11th at 6:00 pm

Winter General Membership Meeting

Petroleum Club
November 3rd at 6:00 pm



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