

Highmark Medicare Forum Provides Interesting Discussion: On Wednesday, May 13th, MCMS provided a Physician Feedback Forum with Highmark and CMS officials primarily about the medical review audits and process. Dr. Andrew Bloschichak, Highmark's Medical Director, Dr. Barbara Connors, CMS' Medical Director, and Dr. Laurence Clark, Metro DC Region Medical Director, attended the forum, along with operations staff over the call center and the medical review area. There were three MCMS member presentations about their experience with the Highmark medical reviews which demonstrated the difficulty posed on the practice through the appeal process, and the inability to get consistent information from Highmark. In the course of the dialogue, several points of agreement were raised which will require discussion with and action by Maryland's Congressional delegation. This joint effort with MedChi is ongoing. Please continue to inform Susan D'Antoni, MCMS Executive Director, of your practice's issues related to Highmark.

MedChi Offers Program: Electronic Health Records: Applications for the Physician's Practice – Friday, June 5th: This seminar will feature presentations on the practical application of EHR to physician's practice, HIT, HIE & E-Prescribing, EHR & Quality Improvement, EHR & the law, Return on Investment, and more. Take advantage of opportunities to meet with CCHIT certified exhibitors throughout the day. Presenters include: Jama Allers (MedChi Practice Management Consultant), David Sharp, Ph.D. (Director, Center for Information Technology, Maryland Health Care Commission), Cindy S. Friend, RN, BSN, MSN, MBS/HCA (Chief Policy Development, HIT Maryland Health Care Commission), and Steve Johnson (MedChi General Counsel). The program will be held at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel in Columbia, MD. It will run from 7am until 4:45pm. The fee for MedChi Members and their staff is \$25, non-members fee is \$55. To register, visit www.medchi.org or call 800.492.1056.

Next MCMS Lunch & Learn Road Show to be Held Friday, June 19th at Montgomery General: MCMS and our corporate partners will be available as resources to your staff during this session. We are bringing our resources to you. The road show will be held in Boyer Community Learning Centers A, B, & C at Montgomery General Hospital from 11:30am – 1:30pm. It's convenient and lunch is free! Some of the partners joining us are: Community Radiology Associates, MedChi Insurance, NextGen Practice Solutions, Nixon Uniforms, RealMed Corporation, and Stein, Sperling, Bennett, De Jong, Driscoll, and Greenfeig, PC. RSVP today by calling 301.921.4300 or emailing Kristi Broadfoot at kbroadfoot@montgomerymedicine.org! Open to members, prospective members, & their staff.

MCMS Representative Needed for Montgomery Cares Program: The mission of the Montgomery Care Board is to guide the development of the program, to ensure steady and measurable growth in the number of County resident accessing high quality and efficient health care services including primary, specialty, dental, and behavioral health care services. The term is two years and the Board meets frequently. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Susan D'Antoni, MCMS Executive Director, at 301.921.4300 or email her at sdantoni@montgomerymedicine.org.

Atlantic Health Partners Opportunity Offers Discounts on Flu Vaccine: Atlantic Health Partners understand that vaccine costs continue to be a major issue for many practices. MCMS has established a partnership with Atlantic to help your practice save money and manage vaccine purchasing more effectively. This program includes a Flu component that may lower the cost of your existing Fluzone pre-booking. This is a great time to pre-book Fluzone because Sanofi has recently lowered prices on adolescent and adult Fluzone products. Your practice needs to be enrolled in the Atlantic program before June 1, 2009 to ensure access to Atlantic's contract pricing for Fluzone. As a program member, your practice orders directly from Merck and Sanofi Pasteur and receives more favorable pricing and purchasing terms on their full spectrum of pediatric, adult, flu, and travel vaccines, including Sanofi's new combination vaccine Pentacel. To learn more about how Atlantic's vaccine program can benefit your practice contact them by phone at 800.741.2044 or by email at info@atlantichelpthpartners.com.