Are You Ready for the Sunshine Act?

The ACC strongly encourages physicians to register to preview reports of industry payments made to them before the reports are made public on Sept. 30 as required by the Physician Payments Sunshine Act. The registration system opened on June 1 and is now available at portal.cms.gov. Tips for successfully registering:

- Review these slides for step-by-step instructions (starting on slide 14).
- Physicians must register themselves – staff will not be able to register for you.
- Have a copy of your credit report next to you while registering.
- Designate a member of your staff to be given access to your report during the preview period.
- You do not need to create a new CMS Enterprise Identity Management system (EIDM) account if you use the Health Insurance Oversight System, the Medicaid and CHIP Program System or other CMS systems.
- PECOS, the National Provider Identifier enumeration system and the Surrogate User Program are not connected to the EIDM system, so you cannot use existing accounts on those systems for Sunshine Act purposes.
- Contact openpayments@cms.hhs.gov with any problems with registration.
- Contact Experian Proofing Support Services for assistance with identity proofing concerns.

Share Your Successes!

What are you doing and/or achieving for CV health? Tweet it to @ArizonaACC and be sure to post it on Facebook!
Exploring Barriers to Gender Gaps in Cardiology

Women remain underrepresented among all cardiologists in the U.S., and a recent survey suggests some reasons behind this persistent gender gap. The survey’s creator, Sarika Desai, DO, an ACC Fellow in Training, chief cardiology fellow at the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center / Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona and the Women in Cardiology Section liason, intends to expand this area of inquiry and explore the barriers to gender parity in the specialty.

“This is the first survey of its kind to look behind the data and ask female cardiologists about their perceptions,” according to Desai, who presented the survey results during a breakout session at ACC.14.

The last 40 years has seen a steady growth in the percentage of female physicians in the U.S., expanding from 10 percent of all physicians in 1970 to 32 percent in 2010. But the cardiology specialty in particular is notable for its dramatic imbalance in the ratio of males to females. American Board of Internal Medicine statistics show that the percentage of women in cardiology over the past several years persists in the range of 10 percent to 15 percent. The percentage of female cardiologists remains approximately 15.5 percent, a figure far lower than other specialties. This remains true even while coronary heart disease is easily the leading cause of mortality among females across all ages in the U.S. Please click here to read the rest of this article.

ACC Advocates MOC Changes at AMA Meeting

Representatives from the ACC were at the American Medical Association's (AMA's) annual House of Delegates meeting in Chicago in late June advocating for a number of policies, including maintenance of certification changes and increased involvement of younger physicians in the AMA. ACC's delegates joined the House of Medicine in commending CVS/Caremark for taking tobacco off shelves and urged others to implement similar policies. Additionally, ACC delegates expressed support for public health initiatives regarding scholastic athlete safety and the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest. Other hot topics included clinical registries and the Choosing Wisely program; tobacco regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and nutritional labeling and education; and the appropriate use criteria mandate included in the Sustainable Growth Rate patch.
NEWS YOU CAN USE

Federal Budget Overview of Select Health Provisions for 2015

On March 4, 2014, President Obama released his FY 2015 budget proposal to Congress. This is the base budget proposal that Congress will consider as it develops the federal budget for FY 2015. The President's budget assumes enactment of certain legislative proposals that would make key changes in Medicare program policy and save $407 billion over 10 years. Some of these provisions could be addressed when Congress considers Medicare payment reform. Click here to see select policy provisions requiring legislative action.

ACC’s Strategic Plan Goes to Implementation Phase

ACC staff and member leaders are now in the implementation phase of the College’s five-year Strategic Plan, as drawn out over the last year and was approved at the December ACC Board of Trustees meeting. The Strategic Plan is intended to direct the College’s activities and ensure the ACC’s strategic priorities are mission-focused. Learn more about the direction of the ACC online here.

ROAD TO 10: YOUR PATH TO ICD-10 COMPLIANCE

In preparation for the transition to ICD-10, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have launched the Road to 10 Program. The Program is designed to provide resources and tools to small physician practices as they prepare for the ICD-10 transition. Click here for more.

New Medical Mobile App: Enhance Patient Care

With a plethora of medical mobile apps on the market, it can often be challenging to know which ones to implement in clinical practice. The ACC’s Informatics Task Force has developed a series of Mobile App Reviews to help providers adopt tools that optimize patient care. Read the reviews to decide which apps are the right fit for you and be sure to check back often for updates. Do you have an app to recommend? Please email reviewsubmissions@acc.org to submit a review.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 31-Aug. 3: Mayo Clinic Cardiology Update 2014: The Heart of the Matter, Sedona
Sep. 4th: New Device Tehrapy in heart Failure: Cases and Technology, 6:30 pm, Fogo de Chao, Scottsdale
Oct. 10th - 11th: Cardiovascular Disease Management: A Case-Based Approach - CDM 2014, Phoenix
October 16th - 18th: 14th Annual Maui Cardiovascular Symposium, Maui