



# CARDIOLOGY

in Arizona

Fall 2017

[www.ACC-AZ.org](http://www.ACC-AZ.org)

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CHRIS BREBURDA, MD, FACC



Dear Colleagues,

We just completed a tremendously active summer with a large Women in Cardiology event at Mayo Hospital, a very successful annual chapter Meeting at Mayo Clinic, and an engaged election for the new chapter president elect to be determined. The new president elect will assist me in the state chapter leadership until after the national scientific meeting in March 2019 at which time the new chapter president's term will begin: we have two well qualified and terrific candidates.

The national legislative meeting this September was impressive. J. Wallace, former White House Chief of Communication for the George W Bush administration gave the keynote on the state of health care reform. Dr. Collins, Chief of NIH, reported in his work on the genome that helped him to become a man of faith and the state of research funding. Support the ACC PAC and become active PAC members.

Dr. Richard Heuser, Prof of Medicine U of A, Chief of Cardiology, St Luke Phoenix, has agreed to sever as our ACC AZ Chair of Innovation and we plan a Health-Technology Meeting with ACC CA and Silicon Valley Companies in St. Monica in June 2018.

Our AZ delegation meet with staffers of all AZ senators and congressmen requesting independent supervision for NPAs in rehab units and increase in funding for FDA, CDC and NIH.

We are looking forward to the state CV Team meeting and the participation of the AZ FIT delegation at next years ACC Jeopardy. We will also start a list-serve for the chapter, where any member can start, interact with email discussions of chapter affairs.

Check our ACC AZ website calendar at [acc-az.org](http://acc-az.org) for upcoming events, follow me in twitter @ChrisBrebuda MD for updates and see you all at the net annual state chapter meeting May 18, 2018.

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## INFORMATIONAL

### [ACC Leadership Tackles Prior Authorization](#)

For years, prior authorization has impeded patient access and burdened cardiovascular practice management. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, chair of the Board of Governors, and Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC, chair of ACC's Membership Committee, recently co-authored a piece in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#) breaking down prior authorization burdens and offering action items for reducing physician pressure. "This is one piece in the puzzle to find an answer to prior authorization challenges. However, to be successful on a larger scale for the entire medical community, insurers, physicians, care team members, practice administrators, and lawmakers need to work together to find a solution that ultimately saves time, saves money, and—most importantly—saves lives," write Wilson and Shor. Read the full article [here](#). The ACC has developed a [Prior Authorization Reporting Tool \(PARTool\)](#) to help your practice with data collection and support the ACC's efforts at the state and national level to address prior authorization issues. With this data, the ACC hopes persuade payers and state insurance commissioners to minimize, or even eliminate, some of their prior authorization requirements. Access your ACC's PARTool [here](#). Go to [ACC.org/PARTool](#) to learn more.



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#### Journal of the American College of Cardiology

Volume 70, Issue 9, August 2017  
DOI: 10.1016/j.jacc.2017.07.727

**ACC Tackling Prior Authorization**  
Hadley Wilson and Robert Shor

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## [Shared Decision Making Infographic Now Available](#)

ACC's [CardioSmart](#) recently launched a new [Decision Aids](#) section to help patients understand what decision aids are, how to use them and where to find them. This section highlights several resources, including a new [infographic on Shared Decision Making](#) to guide patients through the process of making a decision when they need to weight in treatment options or the path forward is unclear. Just like the other [CardioSmart infographic posters](#), this infographic can be [downloaded for free](#) and used as point-of-care graphics for your waiting and exam rooms. For more tools and resources on this subject, visit [CardioSmart.org/Decisions](http://CardioSmart.org/Decisions).



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## Stay In Touch With the ACC via Social Media

Stay in touch with the ACC and the latest clinical and advocacy news through ACCinTouch. ACCinTouch connects ACC members and those interested in cardiovascular news through popular social networking channels like [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#). Join each of these networks to connect with ACC members and those interested in cardiology. In addition to the ACC's main Twitter profile [@ACCinTouch](#), the College also has a channel dedicated to advocacy-related news ([@Cardiology](#)), education ([@ACCCardioEd](#)), and quality ([@ACCCVQuality](#)). CardioSmart, ACC's patient education and support program, also has patient-centered cardiovascular news available through [Facebook](#), Twitter ([@CardioSmart](#)), and [YouTube](#). For more information about ACC's social media channels, visit [ACC.org/ACCinTouch](http://ACC.org/ACCinTouch).

## ACC Archived Webinars

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on ACC.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information at [www.acc.org/WebinarsOndemand](http://www.acc.org/WebinarsOndemand). Questions? Contact ACC's Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603 or 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or [resource@acc.org](mailto:resource@acc.org).

# CVT CORNER

■ MARCI FARQUHAR-SNOW, NP, AACC, CVT LIAISON ■

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE RECAP

■ SHARON DICKINSON, PAC AACC

I had the opportunity to participate in the ACC Legislative conference this September. The experience was very exciting and inspiring. Meeting in person with lawmakers, advocating for our patients, and walking the halls of the Capitol...I can not describe the feeling. I knew I was part of something bigger.

What I learned is that legislators are just people. Our role is to educate them about the topics we know so well, to help them to make important decisions that will effect their constituents. I would recommend this experience to anyone interested in making the system better for our patients.

In retrospect, I am very proud of our Arizona team as it included the full breadth of the cardiovascular team; an Established MD, an early career MD, a FIT, a PA and an NP.

Sharon Dickinson PAC AACC

■ INFORMATIONAL

## UPDATE: Cardiology Takes the Hill!

In a recent Leadership Page published in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#) (JACC), ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, reflects on the ACC's 2017 Legislative Conference. This year, ACC members met with their senators and representatives or their legislative aides and focused their "ask" on the following issues: (1) a bill that would expand access to cardiac rehabilitation; (2) increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and (3) easing the administrative burden on clinicians by exercising oversight of Quality Payment Program implementation, streamlining electronic health record (EHR) requirements, and facilitating a smooth transition to new payment models. "The momentum from this year's conference will carry us throughout the year as we advocate at both state and national levels," Walsh writes. "Hopefully, the value gained over the 3-day meeting will make participation in next year's 2018 ACC Legislative Conference a priority for members new and old." [Read more.](#)

# LEADERSHIP ALERT

## INFORMATIONAL

### CMS Officially Cancels EPM and Cardiac Rehab Incentive Payment Models

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [issued a final rule](#) officially canceling the Episode Payment Models (EPMs) for AMI and CABG and Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) Incentive Payment Model and rescinding the regulations establishing these models, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

In releasing the final rule, CMS stressed that “value-based payment methodologies will play an essential role in lowering costs and improving quality of care, which will be necessary in order to maintain Medicare’s fiscal solvency” and reiterated its commitment to developing value-based models that would allow for Advanced APM participation in 2018 and beyond. “We believe that focusing on the development of different bundled payment models and engaging more providers in these models is the best way to drive health system change while minimizing provider burden and maintaining patient access to care,” the Agency stated.

Specifically, CMS acknowledged the comments it received on the proposed cancellation rule and noted agreement “with the premise cited by commenters that the CR Incentive Payment Model could provide an opportunity to collect evidence and may support provision of an under-utilized yet effective intervention.” However, the Agency went on to say: “Due to the manner in which the regulations guiding the cardiac EPMs were interwoven with those of the CR Incentive Payment Model, we do not believe it would be feasible to continue the mandatory CR Incentive Payment Model alone at this time since we are cancelling the EPMs and rescinding all of the associated regulations. However, as we stated in the proposed rule, as we further develop the Innovation Center’s portfolio of models, we may revisit the concept of a model with a focus on cardiac rehabilitation and, if we do, will consider stakeholder feedback.”

The [ACC’s comments](#) were among the 85 received by CMS. The College will continue to work with CMS to develop further opportunities for the cardiology community to participate in APM models. In a separate [comment letter](#) to CMS on the future direction of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), the College outlined support for increasing participation in APMs, physician specialty models and expanding the mandate of the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee to include APMs for Medicaid and CHIP. The letter also supports models that give flexibility in cost sharing for high value services, such as cardiac rehabilitation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EVENTS

### DEC

**7th REIMBURSEMENT & CODING SEMINAR FOR CARDIOLOGY** Location: Doubletree Suites Hotel 320 North 44th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008 | To read the brochure [CLICK HERE](#) | Stay tuned at: [ACC-AZ.com/information](http://ACC-AZ.com/information)

### JAN

**22nd - 26th MAYO CLINIC CARDIOLOGY UPDATE AT CABO: A FOCUS ON PREVENTION** Location: JW Marriott, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico | Stay tuned at: [ACC-AZ.com/information](http://ACC-AZ.com/information)

### FEB

**22nd - 26th MAYO CLINIC CARDIOLOGY UPDATE AT CABO: A FOCUS ON PREVENTION** Location: Mayo Clinic Hospital in Arizona Juanita Waugh Education Center 5777 E. Mayo Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85054 | Click [HERE](#) for Agenda | Stay tuned at: [ACC-AZ.com/information](http://ACC-AZ.com/information)

### MAY

**18th AZACC ANNUAL MEETING** Location: [The Scott Resort & Spa](#) formerly FireSky Resort | 6 PM - 9:30PM | 4925 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 | Stay tuned at: [ACC-AZ.com/information](http://ACC-AZ.com/information)