




ACC.15
TCT@ACC-12
MARCH 14 - 16, 2015
SAN DIEGO
CALIFORNIA

**Early Bird Registration
Ends Oct. 22!**

Register Early and Save Up to \$200!

Has CMS Initiated a RAC Audit of Your Data Since August 14, 2014?

If so, the ACC wants to know about it! Please email your name and the date the audit was initiated to Lisa Goldstein at LGoldstein@acc.org or call her in ACC Regulatory Affairs at 1-800-253.4636.

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Sunshine Act Update

Reporting of Sunshine Act data from August 1 through December 31, 2013 went public September 30 2014. **Be sure to search and check YOUR data at www.cms.gov/openpayments.**





AZ ACC CVTs , Sarah Benak & Marci Farquhar-Snow Attend the ACC 2014 Legislative Conference

Sarah Benak Leading the Transformation of Care

As a Mayo School of Health Sciences Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellow with nearly 20 years of experience in military, public, and private healthcare, I have long been witness to the impact of federal health laws on patients and providers. So when given a scholarship opportunity to attend the 2014 American College of Cardiology (ACC) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., I enthusiastically accepted.

With limited direct lobbying experience, I was nervous to be representing Arizona in meetings with state politicians and their representatives. By day 2 of the conference, it was clear my worrying was unnecessary. After attending ACC, congressional, and house panel discussions on current legislative issues, I felt well prepared with all the necessary information. A pre-legislative day workshop for first-time attendees was full of useful tips for making the most of brief meetings with federal lawmakers. Additionally, ACC had prepared a list of suggested talking points associated with the theme “Leading the Transformation of Care” and 3 areas of emphasis: developing a quality driven health care system, ensuring practice stability, and securing the future of cardiovascular care.



Our Arizona ACC legislative team met to prioritize our selected talking points and strategize our approach. We were fortunate to have an experienced advocate, Heather Ross, DNP, on our team. With our plan in place, we made our way to “the Hill”. Our first appointment was with David Bennett, Legislative Correspondent for Senator John McCain. Mr. Bennett welcomed us and, with a family background in healthcare, was receptive to our message: repeal the SGR, support funding for clinical data registries, and preserve the in-Office Ancillary Services Exception. Our 2nd appointment was with Katherina Dimenstein, Legislative Assistant to Congressman David Schweikert. Ms. Dimenstein showed genuine interest in our message as well as enthusiasm for future networking and collaboration on Arizona health care issues. Although we did not have an appointment with him, Congressman Schweikert was in the office. Overhearing our conversation, he did take a few moments to exchange views on Arizona healthcare issues and the legislative process.

I am grateful for the scholarship award to attend the 2014 ACC Legislative Conference. After this experience, I am well versed on current healthcare policy issues and the legislative process. While I was somewhat apprehensive at the start, the panel discussions and presentations gave me the knowledge I needed to feel confident during our legislative meetings. Dr. Ross was generous in sharing her past experience and wisdom on the protocols for meeting with officials on Capitol Hill. Overall, I feel empowered to pursue future advocacy opportunities and hope to continue participating in the ACC Legislative Conference on an annual basis.





AZ ACC CVTs , *cont. . .*

Marci Farquhar-Snow

The pre-conference identified key healthcare issues that have the greatest potential impact on our delivery of cardiovascular care: developing quality driven health care system through use of registries, ensuring practice stability, and securing the future of cardiovascular care with adequate funding. Over the course of the program, ACC instilled confidence in attendees to meet with our state Congress member by outlining key talking points tools and prepping us on how to prioritize our interactions. Experienced ACC lobbying members, such as Heather Ross NP, were readily available; so we did not feel alone or overly uncomfortable to take on Capitol Hill.

I had lobbied at the state level many years ago, had little direct interaction with Congress members, so was prepared to only have the opportunity to drop off reading materials. Our visit to Capitol Hill far exceeded my expectations.

Not only were we able to meet with Representative Schweikert and Senator McCain assistants, we were impressed by their knowledge of healthcare policy and how genuinely interested they were to meet with us.

ACC provides the CV Team member with many learning opportunities, and I would recommend the ACC Legislative Day program to others whether a novice or experienced provider. Even if you only have limited knowledge of the lobbying process, the conference will prepare you with necessary information to become aware of key healthcare issues and how to effectively meet with your state Congress members to promote change.



AZ ACC CVTs attending 2014 ACC Legislative Conference: Heather Ross,, NP, Marci Farquhar-Snow, NP and Sarah Benak, RN, CNP

2014 Legislative Conference

Fellow-in-training Howard Julien, MD, and Nicolas W. Shammass, MD, FACC, [interviewed](#) Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) last week while on Capitol Hill during ACC’s Legislative Conference. Grassley weighed in on funding for graduate medical education and research, practice stability, Sustainable Growth Rate repeal, and the In-Office Ancillary Services Exception, and encouraged cardiovascular professionals to engage with lawmakers year round. Visit the [FITs on the Go video blog](#) for additional coverage of Legislative Conference.





Vote for Your State's New President and Cardiovascular Team State Liaison

Elections for the 2014 Board of Governors (BOG) and Cardiovascular Team State Liaisons will be held Oct. 22 – Nov. 17. Elected representatives will bring local needs to national attention, create new initiatives, develop quality, advocacy, and educational opportunities, and expand the value of membership. To learn which states will be holding elections and for more information about the election process, visit CardioSource.org/Elections. Official results will be announced after the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 8.

New 2014 Guidelines for Patients with NSTEMI-ACS

The ACC and AHA on Sept. 23 released the new 2014 Guideline for the Management of Patients With Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes (NSTEMI-ACS). The guideline has a new name and new terminology that reflect current ways of thinking about this frequent and serious cardiac condition, and is the first full revision since the 2007 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Management of Patients with Unstable Angina and Non-ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (NSTEMI) and subsequent focused updates. [Click here to read more.](#)



The Importance of Responding to Surveys

We all receive them. We usually delete them.

However: DID YOU KNOW that by NOT taking time to weigh in, our reimbursement rates and regulatory constraints are out of our control?

PLEASE be sure to review emails that we as a Chapter or ACC national send you, and make them a priority.





ACC Offers Valuable Education Without Leaving Your OFFICE!

[Coding Changes, ICD-10 Implementaion and Final Rule Details](#)

Webinars!

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on CardioSource.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information here.

To access them, you must have a [CardioSource.org](#) log-in and use the confirmation code and webinar access link emailed to you once you. Questions? Contact ACC's Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603, toll free to 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or via email to resource@acc.org

ACC's MOC Hub

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) implemented changes to its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program for board-certified internists on January 1, 2014. The ACC and other members of the internal medicine community received a letter from the ABIM Board of Directors responding to a number of the concerns previously outlined by ACC and other professional organizations regarding the revised requirements for the ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. In this letter ABIM committed to further changes in the MOC process to address these concerns - read the [ACC in Touch blog](#) to learn more.

The College is continuing our efforts to educate our members about the new requirements and provide them the tools and resources necessary to help them meet these requirements as efficiently as possible. The ACC has created an MOC Hub with details about ABIM's current MOC program to inform and help ACC members navigate the changes. [Learn more here.](#)





New Deadline for CMS Hardship Application

CMS has re-opened the window to apply to avoid 2015 payment adjustments. Medicare providers who are non-compliant in attaining meaningful use and would like to request an exemption from planned Medicare payment adjustments in 2015, must complete and submit an application form. CMS will review the applications and make a determination about each provider's eligibility for a hardship exception. **The NEW deadline is 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014.**

Physicians who are eligible for the hardship exception are those who have never been a meaningful user to date. Please see the links below for the official message and application.

[Hardship Exception Extension Application](#)

[Hardship Exception Application Extension Message](#)

[You can find more information here.](#)

If a provider is eligible to participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, they must demonstrate meaningful use to avoid a payment adjustment in either the Medicare EHR Incentive Program or in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, depending on their eligibility.

In 2009, Congress mandated payment adjustments be applied to Medicare eligible professionals who are not meaningful users of Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology under the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. These payment adjustments are set to be implemented on January 1, 2015 for Medicare eligible professionals. Medicaid eligible professionals who can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and do not bill Medicare are not subject to these payment adjustments.

ACC Launches Public Hospital Profiles and Hospital Search Tool

The ACC has launched a public-facing hospital database and search tool that enables patients to find and compare hospitals in their area based on the cardiac services they provide and important information related to the care they give. Now, all hospitals participating in the NCDR have a Hospital Profile on CardioSmart.org, the ACC's patient education and empowerment website. Through these profiles, patients, caregivers and other stakeholders are able to search hospitals based on specific criteria (location, hospital name, services provided) and learn about every participating hospital's quality measurement efforts through the NCDR. The establishment of Hospital Profiles ensures that patients receive credible information about hospitals participating in the NCDR. For more information about this effort, visit NCDR.com. To find your hospital's profile, visit CardioSmart.org/FindaHospital.

