



a newsletter for physicians, hospitals & healthcare providers June 23, 2017

Action Alert from the AMA

Last month the House of Representatives narrowly passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA), legislation that according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) could result in an estimated 14 million Americans losing their health care coverage in 2018 in addition to a projected cut of more than \$800 billion to Medicaid over the next decade.

Now it's the Senate's turn and prospects for an improved bill that addresses the concerns expressed by physicians from across the country look grim. As early as next week, Senate leadership is moving forward with plans to vote on a bill.

Physicians stand united with their patients in opposition to any legislation that would cut coverage for Americans with health insurance, take quality health care coverage away from those who have it now and increases out-of-pocket health care costs.

Contact your Senators now and tell them to vote NO on any legislation that would make coverage more expensive for millions of Americans. It's time to put patients above politics!

Critics: Senate Bill's Cuts To Medicaid Would Harm Florida

Critics pounced after the Senate released its long-awaited bill to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care law on Thursday, saying its proposed cuts to Medicaid could be disastrous for the roughly 3.6 million Florida residents who rely on the program. For story [click here](#).

ANNOUNCING THE PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (PLA) of SOUTH FLORIDA

Application Submission Deadline: August 25, 2017

The PBCMSS is pleased to announce that applications for the Physician Leadership Academy (PLA) of South Florida will be available as of June 25. The PLA will offer a select group of South Florida physicians with:

- at least 40 AMA Category 1 CME credits (with full attendance),
- a diverse array of leadership skills training,

- tools which enable participants to take on significant leadership roles,
- vital information about health care issues facing Floridians, and
- access to a growing professional network.

This program, held under the auspices of the Palm Beach County Medical Society/Services in partnership with Broward County Medical Association and Dade County Medical Association, is funded through a grant from The Physicians Foundation and is endorsed by the Florida Medical Association. Up to 8 physicians who are members of PBCMS will be selected to become members of the 2017-2018 PLA class. We invite you to self-nominate or present nominations for consideration as candidates for the Physicians Leadership Academy of South Florida. For more information please call Jim Sugarman by email JimS@pbcms.org or call 561-433-3940 ext. 103.

PBCMS Offers CHW Care Coordination Training Program

The training will be offered at Career Source Palm Beach County 3400 Belvedere Rd. West Palm Beach, FL August 25th thru November 10th. Classes will be held Fridays from 1pm-4pm. Includes all classes, course materials and simulation sessions, 30 CEU's provided. Scholarships are available. For more information please contact Karen Harwood at karenh@pbcms.org or by phone 561-433-3940 ext. 114. Application deadline: Friday, August 4, 2017. [Click here for application.](#)

New video shows physicians how to avoid Medicare payment penalties

The Quality Payment Program (QPP) is the new physician payment system created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Because the QPP is new this year, the Palm Beach County Medical Society and the AMA want to make sure physicians know what they have to do to participate and the QPP's "pick your pace" options for reporting. This is especially important for those physicians who have not participated in past Medicare reporting and programs and may be less knowledgeable about the steps they can take to avoid being penalized under the QPP.

The AMA and the Federation stressed to CMS the importance of establishing a transition period to QPP and, as a result, physicians only need to report on at least one quality measure for one patient during 2017 in order to avoid a payment penalty in 2019 under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

A new short video developed by the AMA, "[One patient, one measure, no penalty: How to avoid a Medicare payment penalty with basic reporting](#)," offers step-by-step instructions on how to report so physicians can avoid a negative 4-percent payment adjustment in 2019. On this website, ama-assn.org/qpp-reporting, there are also links to CMS' quality measure tools and an example of what a completed 1500 billing form looks like.

Health Department Crafts Medical Marijuana Framework

Florida health officials have laid out a new process to implement the voter-approved constitutional amendment broadly legalizing medical marijuana, as they attempt to meet deadlines included in the November ballot measure. The latest proposed rule came as the Department of Health awaits Gov. Rick Scott's signature of a medical-marijuana bill adopted by lawmakers during a special session this month. To continue reading [click here](#).

Draft Order on Drug Prices Proposes Easing Regulations

In the early days of his administration, President Trump did not hesitate to bash the drug industry. But a draft of an executive order on drug prices appears to give the pharmaceutical industry much of what it has asked for — and no guarantee that costs to consumers will drop. The draft, which The New York Times obtained on Tuesday, is light on specifics but clear on philosophy: Easing regulatory hurdles for the drug industry is the best way to get prices down. [Click here](#) for full story from NY Times.

Florida Blue: Rates Will Increase 20 Percent Without Cost Sharing Reductions

Florida Blue will file its proposed rates for the Affordable Care Act marketplace this week and officials warn they could increase by 20 percent if the federal government stops funding the cost sharing measures that are included in Obamacare. The company will continue to offer health insurance in all of Florida's 67 counties and is required to file its rates with the state on Wednesday. [Click here](#) to continue reading.



Judy Dunn and Chris Walsh of CareerSourcePBC present Karen Harwood, Dr. Stuart Miro and Tenna Wiles CEO of Palm Beach County Medical Society with a check for tuition funding for the CHW Care Coordination Training Program. The Palm Beach County Medical Society is grateful for the support of CareerSourcePBC.

What the eClinicalWorks \$155M settlement means for you

eClinicalWorks, one of the nation's largest EHR software vendors, recently agreed to pay \$155 million to the government to settle a False Claims Act whistleblower case alleging that eCW misrepresented its EHR products and paid kickbacks. None of this settlement will be paid to eCW customers. The government contended that eCW falsely obtained "meaningful use" certification for its EHR software by, among other things, concealing that its software did not meet the certification criteria for certain drug codes and failing to comply with data portability and audit log requirements. Therefore, the claims for federal incentive payments under the meaningful use program submitted by eCW customers were alleged to be false claims. The government has not stated whether or not it will seek recovery against eCW customers.

Q: What are my options?

A: If your practice signed up with eClinicalWorks prior to 2014, you may have a cause of action against eCW. For more information regarding your legal rights in this matter, contact the FMA General Counsel's office at legal@flmedical.org or call (850) 224-6496.

2017-2018 Health Care Connection

Is there a topic that you or your office staff are interested in learning more about? If so, we can consider for our 2017-2018 Health Care Connection educational series. Please email deannal@pbcms.org or call 433-3940 ext. 105.

Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer Opportunities!

Palm Beach County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) needs medical, health and support volunteers. To attend an upcoming orientation and learn more about how you can join the Palm Beach County MRC, please email John James at johnj@pbcms.org or call 561-433-3940 ex. 118.

Physicians in Active Practice

If you are interested in learning more about the PBCMS 2020 Health Hub please call Deanna by email deannal@pbcms.org or call 561-433-3940 ext. 105.

ALERTPBC

Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System is used to notify you about imminent threats to health and safety. Administrators send notifications regarding severe weather, flooding, gas leaks; police activity; and more. To sign up, [click here](#).

PHYSICIANS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With summer here we have pre-med students looking for shadowing/mentoring opportunities. We receive daily inquiries and don't have enough volunteer physicians to help. To learn more about how you can help our future physicians please email deannal@pbcms.org or call Deanna Lessard (561) 433-3940 ext. 105.

Caduceus

Within Café and Bookstore will be holding AA Meetings for Medical Professionals beginning June 6th at 8:15. Meetings will be held every Wednesday at 8:15 at the Shoppes of Atlantis 5865 South Congress Ave. Lantana, FL 33462.

Stay up to date on the latest on Congressional Health Reform

[Click here](#) for Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service committed to in-depth coverage of health care policy and politics. They report on how the health care system — hospitals, doctors, nurses, insurers, governments, consumers — works.

Upcoming PBCMS Events

Women Physician's Networking Dinner

Palm Beach County Medical Society invites you to a Women Physician's Networking Dinner on Thursday, July 20, 2017 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Regional Kitchen & Public House -City Place - 651 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach. Please RSVP to deannal@pbcms.org or call 561-433-3940 ext. 105. This event is graciously sponsored by Visiting Angels.

Medical Students, Residents & Faculty!

Palm Beach County Medical Society will be hosting a Mix and Mingle at the Meat Market in Palm Beach, 191 Bradley Place, Palm Beach, Florida 33480 on Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 6-8 pm. FREE for PBCMS members! To RSVP email Deannal@pbcms.org or call 561-433-3940.

2017 Future of Medicine

Save the date for the 2017 Future of Medicine Conference "The New Reality of Healthcare." It will be held on October 12th & 13th at the Airport Hilton, West Palm Beach. Please call 561-433-3940 or [click here](#) for sponsorship information.

Upcoming Community Events

CME Program

Jupiter Medical Center will be hosting "Introduction to Ayurvedic Medicine: It's Role in the Treatment and Prevention of Chronic Disease" with Scott Gerson, MD, PhD as the speaker. It will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 6:00pm-7:00pm at the Clarke South, Raso Education Center, Jupiter Medical Center, 1210 S. Old Dixie Hwy., Jupiter, FL 33458. Please RSVP by email brianne.Paterno@jupitermed.com or call (561) 263-3477.

Save the Date

Acevedo Consulting will be hosting "MIPS- How to Succeed in 2017 and beyond" on Friday, August 4, 2017 at Keiser University, West Palm Beach Campus from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. For more information call 561-278-9328.

Summer Academy

FAU Anne Boykin Institute for the Advancement of Caring in Nursing will be hosting a summer academy "Interprofessional Partnerships Grounded in Caring Science" on June 25th & 26th. For more information [click here](#).

Classifieds

Open Positions for Staff Physician (Family Practice, Internal Medicine)

FoundCare is looking for a Staff Physician. We are growing, come join us. For confidential consideration, please email your CV/resume to mmachonis@foundcare.org or fax 561-868-5652. For more details call Mike Machonis 561-472-9160 ext. 212.

Job Openings

Psychiatrist, General physician (MD)- urgent care/internal medicine/ family medicine specialties Contact Judy Dunn, 561-371-5326 or jdunn@careersourcepbc.com

MD or DO for concierge medicine- Contact Judy Dunn, 561-371-5326 or jdunn@careersourcepbc.com

MD or DO for general medicine and psychiatric coverage for Addiction Treatment Center, Contact Judy Dunn, 561-371-5326 or jdunn@careersourcepbc.com

Physician Needed

Seeking BC/BE FP, Urgent Care, ER physician to work with all ages, in brand new state-of-the-art Urgent Care Center in Wellington, Florida. 3-4 12 hour shifts/week, comp. salary, excellent benefits. FL lic. preferred. Contact Karen DeSimone – (941) 745-7232.

Office Space for Rent

Office space for rent. Central location in Palm Beach County near Good Samaritan Hospital. Will build to suit: approximately 1000 sq. ft. on the First Floor. If interested, please contact 561-655-9055 and speak with Samantha for more information.

Office Space for Rent

Office space for rent. Central location in Palm Beach County near Good Samaritan Hospital. Will build to suit: approximately 1215 sq. ft. on the Second Floor. If

interested, please contact 561-655-9055 and speak with Samantha for more information.

Office Space for Rent

Fully furnished office space for rent with medical equipment. Ideal for Ob/Gyn or PCP. Central location in Palm Beach County near Okeechobee Blvd and I-95. 4 exam rooms. Business office. Doctor offices. Break room. 2 restrooms. If interested, please contact 561-434-6796 for more information.

Office Space for Sublease

On St. Mary's Campus. 5305 Greenwood Ave., Suite 202 WPB. Three exam rooms and large physician's office with wheelchair access. Available 2 to 3 days per week. Contact 561-841-8545 for more information.

Don't miss out - Only 1 fully functional Medical Office unit still available for lease in West Palm Beach

This large suite encompasses 4600 sq. ft. with 7 exam rooms, a large reception/medical records area, lab area, 2 nurse's stations and a full lead lined X-Ray room. This building is close to I-95 and is centrally located. Ask us about the optional use of our 3000-sq. ft., ACHA certified and fully accredited Outpatient Surgery Center. Plenty of parking available and possible move-in incentives. Contact Candy Steiding at 561-968-7111 or candy@plasticsurgerypb.com for further information.

Needed New or Gently Used Medical Equipment

Clinics Can Help (CCH), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2005, gratefully accepts donations of new or gently used medical equipment which we clean and when necessary refurbish and provides it to convalescing or chronically ill children and adults in Palm Beach County. To inquire about donating medical equipment or supplies or for more information about CCH call 561.640.2995 today or go to www.clinicscanhelp.org.