

WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

April 2015 e-News

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President's Message



Happy Spring, WCMS!

With spring come April showers and May flowers, not to mention a few medical society events!

The weekend of April 24-26 will be the WMS Foundation fundraising dinner/silent auction and the Annual House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. The Foundation aims to "enable physicians and other friends of the profession to support projects vitally affecting scientific medicine and public health." Some Foundation projects include scholarships for medical students, research opportunities for medical students, and the annual White Coat Campaign to welcome new medical students to our profession.

The HOD is our forum for creating WMS policy, and this year's HOD will include a 4-hour CME event focusing on physician satisfaction. If you are interested in participating in the WMS events, please contact the [Waukesha CMS office](#).

On Sunday, May 3, we are sponsoring a family day at the Milwaukee Zoo. This will be an opportunity to socialize with other Waukesha CMS families in a relaxed, comfortable setting. Zoo admission, parking, and lunch are all included. Please [register online](#), or contact the [WCMS office](#).

Once again, I wish you a happy spring, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Jim

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Family Outing at Milwaukee County Zoo

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

WCMS Annual Membership Meeting

Golden Mast Inn, Okauchee

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Other News

DHS Reports Medicaid Budget Projected to End Balanced
April 2, Wisconsin Health News

The Department of Health Services anticipates Wisconsin's Medicaid program will end the biennium in balance, assuming it allocates roughly \$47 million from lawsuit settlements with drug manufacturers.

In a report released Wednesday, DHS Secretary Kitty Rhoades noted that last December the department had anticipated

using \$22 million from settlements made by companies for allegedly overbilling Medicaid to balance the program.

But higher BadgerCare enrollment trends, more spending in certain fee-for-service categories such as prescription drugs and hospital services, and reduced federal claims for some services increased cost projections, Rhoades noted.

The report also included an update of the Comprehensive Community Services benefit for Medicaid enrollees who need mental health services. The department anticipates that state expenditures for the program will total \$6.6 million by the end of June, roughly \$4 million less than its previous estimate.

The projected decrease is due to the fact that many regions offering services were only certified to implement the program for part of fiscal year 2015. Rhoades also wrote that "typical lags in providers submitting claims" played a role as well.

WHIO Launches Public Reporting Site

March 24, Wisconsin Health News

The Wisconsin Health Information Organization launched a website Tuesday rating primary care providers and measuring how clinics stack up against certain benchmarks.

"Not all healthcare is the same," WHIO CEO Josephine Musser said in a statement. "Some is better than others."

MyHealthWI.org scores providers in internal medicine, family medicine and pediatrics. More specialties are expected in later versions. Information is drawn from WHIO's Datamart, which includes commercial, Medicaid and Medicare Advantage claims. It plans to add Medicare fee-for-service data later in 2015.

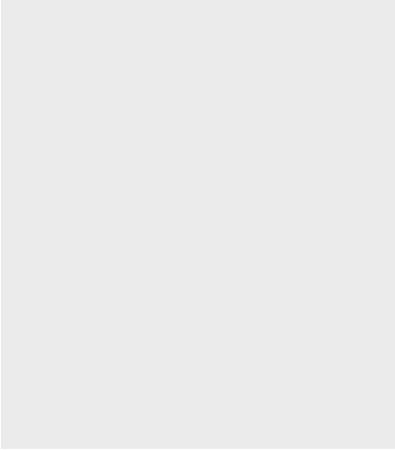
Gov. Scott Walker provided WHIO \$5 million in his 2013-'15 budget to create a consumer website and promote health literacy. The release of the site was pushed back after doctors wanted to make changes to the information, and WHIO waited for the latest version of its Datamart.

SGR Patch Has Expired; Bill To Repeal SGR On Hold For U.S. Senate Vote

April 2, WMS Medigram

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2: "The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act" (MACRA) last week. The bill would repeal the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, but no action will be taken by the U.S. Senate until it reconvenes April 13. The current SGR patch, however, expired March 31.

In the meantime, the American Medical Association (AMA) is advising practices to continue charging the current rates or to defer submitting claims. Because Medicare is required by law to pay physicians the lesser of the submitted charge or the Medicare approved amount, the AMA is advising physicians to continue to charge the 2015 rates for April dates of service or defer submitting claims until final action on the legislation is taken.



"In the unexpected event that Congress allows the 21 percent cut to take effect, Medicare would pay physicians at the reduced amount no matter what the physician billed and no further action would be necessary. However, non-participating physicians who have collected balance billing amounts for unassigned claims based on the currently allowed amount could be required to make refunds to their patients based on new, lower balance billing limits," said Terri Marchiori, director of federation relations for the AMA.

Congress has temporarily fixed the flawed SGR formula with 17 patches in the last 11 years. Physicians are urged to contact their senators about repealing the flawed formula once and for all.