

# WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## President's Message

Jim Gariti, MD



As the fall elections approach, we are again reminded of the impact politics has on our lives.

The Waukesha County Medical Society, in partnership with the Wisconsin Medical Society and their lobbyists and political contacts, has a significant influence on the direction politicians take on healthcare-related issues. Whether it's through our direct contact with legislators at our annual Town Hall Meeting, through our donations to WISMedPAC, through our show of force at the Capitol on Doctor Day, or through our input on policy direction at our annual House of Delegates, we have the opportunity to affect the decisions politicians make.

I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity and get involved. You can find more information on our website, [www.WaukeshaCMS.org](http://www.WaukeshaCMS.org), and on the WMS website, [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org), and you can always email or call me with any questions.

Enjoy the fall season, and I look forward to seeing you at our holiday party in December.

-Jim

## WCMS Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

**Waukesha CMS Annual Holiday Party**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2014**  
**6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Cooper's Hawk Restaurant & Winery  
15 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005  
In the Brookfield Square shopping center

New format this year will include an informal mix & mingle with heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and a holiday charity drive. Bring one or two non-perishable food items to benefit the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

Invite your colleagues and SIGN UP TODAY! This event is complimentary for Waukesha CMS members, and \$50 for non-members and guests. [REGISTER ONLINE](#).

## Latest News

### Medicare Open Enrollment Begins

*Seniors have more high quality choices for Medicare health and*

## *drug plans*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the start of the Medicare Open Enrollment, which began October 15th and ends December 7th. CMS encourages people with Medicare to review their current health and prescription drug coverage options for 2015.

For 2015, steadily increasing quality of plans should give seniors confidence that they have an array of quality choices at competitive prices. Quality in Medicare Advantage and the Part D Prescription Drug Program continues to improve. About 60 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees are currently enrolled in plans with four or more stars for 2015, in contrast to an estimated 17 percent in 2009. And Medicare Advantage enrollment is projected to be at an all-time high in 2015 with more than 16 million beneficiaries.

For more information on Medicare Open Enrollment and to compare benefits and prices of 2015 Medicare health and drug plans, and view state-by-state fact sheets, please visit: [www.cms.gov/Center/Special-Topic/Open-Enrollment-Center.html](http://www.cms.gov/Center/Special-Topic/Open-Enrollment-Center.html).

### **Wisconsin Healthcare Ranks Third in Nation**

*October 20, Wisconsin Health News*

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality ranked Wisconsin third best in the country for overall healthcare quality in a recent report. The agency ranked all 50 states on more than 100 measures. Minnesota got the best score, followed by Massachusetts.

Kelly Court, chief quality officer for the Wisconsin Hospital Association, said the state's highly integrated healthcare system likely helped boost its score.

"In a state like ours that has a highly-integrated health delivery system, care is more coordinated and therefore, improvements can take hold much more quickly and be sustained over time," she said.

### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Update**

*State Issues Updates to 2014-15 ACIP Recommendations for use of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine*

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released three principal updates. The updates and recommendations are included in a [memo from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). A summary of these updates, and the full recommendations are available on [the MMWR website](#).

### **Running with the PAC!**

Wisconsin Medical Society's political program activities are in high gear, and it's not too late to make your PAC donation. The Goal is to raise contributions and awareness of WISMedPAC and

WISMedDIRECT, and see what a difference your donations can make. [Learn more](#), or contact Heidi Green at 608.442.3720 for details or to make a contribution.

## Upcoming Events

### WHN Briefing on Hospital and Health System Partnerships

Through mergers, strategic alliances and quality partnerships, Wisconsin hospitals and health systems are teaming up in increasing manner. What's driving these new agreements and what will be the ultimate impact on the state's healthcare market? What does it all mean for patients? A panel of experts will address these issues and more during a Wisconsin Health News briefing, Tuesday, December 2 at the Madison Club.

Panelists include:

- Greg Devine, CEO, Wisconsin Value Network
- Peter Pruessing, CEO, Integrated Health Network of Wisconsin
- Additional panelists to be named

[Register now](#). The price for lunch is \$30 for Wisconsin Health News subscribers and \$40 for non-subscribers. For questions, contact [Tim Stumm](#) at Wisconsin Health News or [Eric Ostermann](#) at Badger Bay Management.

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