Happy New Year from CCMS!

In this month’s Executive Director’s message we look at all the changes to CCMS over the course of 2018 with an eye to a great year in 2019!

Page 2

Prior Authorization Must Go

CCMS President Dr. Jeffrey Roth talks about some of the research surrounding prior authorization, and its effects on doctors and their patients.

Inside Cover

How Technology is Advancing Medicine & Saving Lives

An upcoming Town Hall event in partnership with the Las Vegas Medical District will connect innovative technology to patient success stories.

Page 11
Prior Authorization (PA) is a process that requires physicians and hospitals to obtain approval from an insurance company or other payer to qualify for payment before they can deliver the prescribed treatment or ordered service their patients need. It is used by payers as a utilization-management tool to control costs and, traditionally, was applied mainly to newer or more expensive services and medications. Physicians have reported an increase in prior-authorization burdens, and this may in part be due to payers placing PA requirements on commonly prescribed drugs and services that are neither new nor costly.

The payer must now approve the order, or they won't pay. If the patient must pay for the medicine, test or procedure themselves, it is most likely not going to happen, as the cost without an insurance company discount is prohibitive. Also, we've learned that prior authorization does not promise payment. Many surgeons have had incidences where after performing the surgery and caring for the patient, the payer does not pay.

Often the criteria used for prior authorization are unclear. Physicians rarely know at the point-of-care if the prescribed treatment requires prior authorization, only to find out later when a patient's access is delayed or denied.

According to a recent survey conducted by the AMA, ninety-two percent of physicians say prior authorization results in care delays. Patients' illnesses go untreated during this process. Prior authorization is more than an administrative burden; it's a barrier to providing timely, patient-centered care.

Jack Resneck Jr., MD, a health policy expert and professor of dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco, said the survey results reflect doctors' orders are delayed for even routine prescriptions.

On average, a medical practice will complete 29.1 PA requests per physician per week that takes 14.6 hours to process, (almost two full business days). About half of the requests are for medical services, while the other half are for prescriptions.

“In my own practice, I now get insurer rejections or PA demands for a majority of the prescriptions I write each day—even for many generic medications that have existed for decades,” Dr. Resneck said. “For many conditions I see, even when there are several treatment options, I increasingly run into plans where every single one of those choices requires a PA.”

Seventy-nine percent of the physicians surveyed reported that they sometimes, often, or always are required to repeat the PA process for prescription medications when a patient is stabilized on a treatment regimen for a chronic condition. Almost two-thirds of physicians reported having to wait at least one business day for the decision from a health plan on a PA request. Nearly one in four physicians wait an average of three to five days, and 7 percent wait more than five days, the survey found.

“Physicians face additional frustrations when initial PA requests are rejected, with health plans often replying with recommendations for alternatives that make no sense given a patient's
condition,” Dr. Resneck said. “This leads to resubmissions and additional phone calls to further explain why a patient needs a particular treatment or why the suggested alternative is completely inappropriate,” he added. “The health-plan employees on the other end of these interactions sometimes don’t know anything about the medication I’m requesting, and I find myself explaining diseases and treatments to them all too often.”

During this delay many patients will abandon treatment. This happens 78% of the time as the process is too cumbersome and time consuming. They often become frustrated with the physician, or their office, even though the physician is advocating for them. This leads to undue tension between physician and patient.

This affects solo practitioners and large entities alike. The Cleveland Clinic spends $10 million on prior authorization each year. Cleveland Clinic staffers send about 520 repeat PA-related faxes a month, including some that are retransmitted as often as six times. The Cleveland Clinic expects to process 900,000 outpatient PA cases in 2018.

The cost of prior authorization has grown. Cleveland Clinic spent $9 million in 2015 on processing PA cases with 175 “caregivers” doing the work, $9.7 million in 2017, and they expect to spend $10.7 million this year.

Besides these denials, there are other ways that PA’s result in a loss of income. For example, authorization may have been secured for an MRI of a patient’s pelvis, and while it is being performed, the radiologist can see the need to also do a study of the abdomen. Getting paid for such additional services can be problematic, as many insurers won’t permit a retro authorization.

Similar cases arise during surgery where a specific procedure has been authorized. The surgeon may spot an additional issue that needs be addressed during the operation, and even though the additional procedure is beneficial to the patient, the surgeon may have trouble getting paid for the additional procedure.

Ohio passed a PA-reform in 2016 and includes provisions that took effect this year. These include mandates that a web-based system be used rather than faxes, and that there be a 10-day turnaround on requests. Milheim said the Cleveland Clinic is calling for “adherence and enforcement” of these and other provisions in the new law.

Payers will learn that delaying treatments costs more in the long run. They will also have significantly lower patient satisfaction, and will most likely lose market share. Many are looking at how much money they are actually saving with this policy, and finding that the savings is not there. At the same time other insurance entities, including Medicare, are looking to widen prior authorization.

There seems to be some appetite for improvement. The AMA has been working with several insurance companies to improve the process.

It is my hope that PA is recognized as a waste of time and resources, and is abandoned as a flawed policy.

If you have experienced prior authorization issues, we want to know. The Nevada Legislature is in session soon, and we have a chance to make a significant difference for physicians and patients. Contact the Clark County Medical Society or Nevada State Medical Association today to learn how you can get involved in helping.

Jeffrey Roth, M.D. President Clark County Medical Society
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

By Alexandra P. Silver | Executive Director
Clark County Medical Society

Happy New Year! We hope your 2019 is off to good start -- I also hope that in the past year, you noticed all the changes underway at CCMS. From the hiring of new staff to rolling out a new website, expanding and creating new programs and preparing to unveil a new database system that will ease all of our lives - 2018 was definitively a year for the books. In 2018, there was a rejuvenated energy and buzz around CCMS and we are poised to live up to the hype and take our organization to even greater heights in 2019. AND we need you, the membership, to reengage with the Society to make CCMS even better. Now is the perfect time. Make CCMS a priority for the new year.

CCMS is full of opportunities to do more, to do better and to influence the next generation of programs, activities and leadership for organized medicine. CCMS is like so many organizations, where a small minority are actively involved, serving on the board, committees, and taking advantage of the benefits we offer. WE NEED YOU to engage, serve and make your voice heard. We need your time and talent to ensure CCMS takes advantage of opportunities before us. This doesn't mean you have to join our board, but if you so are inclined, please note: we are currently seeking nominations for our board, to be installed on June 1st our annual Board Installation Gala. Perhaps you want to be involved but joining our board is not quite for you; how about joining a committee and attending more events? It's as simple as engaging with CCMS on our social media channels, logging into our website and checking out our calendar and learning about our new corporate partners -- a brand new program designed with all of our members in mind to have added value for your membership. Did you know you can get a discount on protecting yours (and your family) identity or get tickets to amusement parks all over the country by taking advantage of our member benefits, or even get discounted tickets to the Nevada Ballet Theatre?

Another way to engage is to share your good news with our communications team, we love sharing the accolades and milestones of our members. Are you hiring? Moving? Let us know and we can help spread the word and make sure you don't miss out on the CCMS monthly magazine "County Line".

In the new year, make sure you add your CCMS & NSMA membership to your business profile on your practice page, LinkedIn, your CV and let the community know how proud you are to be a member. Like us on Facebook, tweet us on Twitter. Join our groups on Facebook and LinkedIn.

If you haven't already made plans for February 25th – join us in Carson City with physicians from Las Vegas and across the state as NSMA hosts Physicians’ Day at the Legislature. Don't miss this chance to meet your legislators face-to-face and have them hear how you think and feel about proposed legislation that will affect you and your patients. Your voice matters and your patients and community are counting on you.

The majority of the work here at CCMS is produced by a few members, but today I am asking you join the dedicated and growing list of engaged members of CCMS to help make 2019 our best year yet.

P.S. - If you have not yet renewed your dues, please do so today. They are officially past due – don’t let your membership lapse and miss out on all CCMS has to offer!

With gratitude,

Alexandra P. Silver
Executive Director

Alexandra P. Silver is the Executive Director of the Clark County Medical Society and can be reached at Alexandra.Silver@clarkcountymedical.org or 702-739-9989

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Don't forget to follow Clark County Medical Society and let us know when your practice has news!

facebook.com/ccmsnevada  twitter.com/ccmsnevada  Instagram.com/ccmsnevada

2 | COUNTY LINE MAGAZINE • JANUARY 2019
CCMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

A synopsis of the December 18th Executive Council Meeting

*The meeting was called to order by Dr. Burkhead at 6:10 pm.*

Dr. Burkhead introduced Yami Escobar, the newest addition to the CCMS team. Yami has taken over the role of Executive Assistant & Office Manager.

**Action Items:**

**Minutes:** - by Dr. Burkhead

The Minutes from the November 20, 2018 meeting were reviewed. *Motion to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes (M/S approved: Reeves/Kuhls)*

**Financial Report:** - by Dr. Kuhls (verbal and written report submitted)

- CCMS is expecting a check for $40,950, making the total dues posted through December 15 $108,015, with additional dues expected after that date.
- Dues from new members this month are $0, to date dues from new members is $1,880. They were not separated out last year.
- CCMS has been looking into how funds are being posted in the system, and we now know that new members were not always posted as new members.
- Total income this month is $3351, compared to $39,900 last year, and year to date $73,174
- Total income is significantly behind last year, but is expected to make up the difference in December as dues come in.
- Operating expenses for this month are $18,220, with year-to-date expenses are less than they were last year by about $14,000
- Net income this month is positive, $4,583 vs -$5,800.
- CCMS is currently behind on budget, as reflected on the balance sheet.
- Quickbooks has been updated with slightly different reports, with the new balance sheet reflecting current and last year.
- CCMS liquid assets are at approximately $242,573 compared to $205,000 last year.
- The MiniMED Internship net was -$769.
- The Burnout CME net was $3,336.

**Written Report:**

**Profit & Loss Combined with Previous Year Comparison Highlights (Pages 1-5)**

**Income Highlights (Round numbers)**

- 3310 Dues from active members - $29,135, YTD $34,432.36, which is $37,324 behind last year.
- 3312 Dues from new members - $0, YTD to $1,880, which is $1,880 ahead of last year.
- 3335 Newsletter Advertising - $1190, YTD $5,800
- 3345 Rental Income - $1450, YTD $5,800
- 3346 Conference Room Rental - $150, YTD $150
- 3365 Pictorial Directory Ad Sales - $3,000, YTD $6,450
- 3435 Installation Dinner Income - $0, YTD $2,000. Last year we had $13,075 income. We are trying to account for the dinner in the fiscal year of the event, rather than carrying over to the next year.
- 3451 General Membership Events Income - $0, YTD $7,850
- 3465 Mini-Internship Income - $0, YTD $1,000

**Expense Highlights (Round numbers)**

- 4000 Operating expenses - $18,220, YTD $78,505, which is $14,982 less than last year.
- 5399 Other building expense is $8,080 over last year YTD due to repairs/enhancements.

**Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual July through November 2018 (Page 6)**

- Total Income $35,051, which is behind the monthly budget of $45,791, possibly due to delay in sending dues. YTD we are behind budget by approximately $55,000.
- Total Expenses are $30,458, which is lower than the monthly budget of $35,483. YTD we are approximately $42,000 lower than budget. This is due largely to decreased operating (personnel) costs.
- Net Income is $4,583, lower than the monthly budget of $10,308. YTD our net loss is $79,161, which is a higher net loss than the budgeted $56,397. It will very important to generate more income from dues and other sources and to monitor our expenses very closely.

**Balance Sheet (Pages 7-8)**

- Total Current (Liquid) Assets are $242,573 compared to $205,288 last year.
- Total Assets are $894,106 compared to $881,061 last year.

**MiniMED September event financial summary (Page 9)**

**Burnout CME event financial summary (Page 10)**

Respectfully submitted, Deborah A. Kuhls, MD FACS FCCM, Treasurer, CCMS

*Motion to approve the December Financial Report (M/S approved: Adashek/Reeves)*
Leadership

2019 Medical Student & Resident Outreach Subcommittee
Written Report:
additions by Alexandra Silver)
report submitted by Dr. Wint & Claire Chen with verbal
Medical Student & Resident Outreach Subcommittee (written

• Applicants to go before the BOT:
  • There are 13 applicant physicians, 2 residents and 2 medical
    students.
  • Only one of the applicant physicians had any discussion
    items regarding allegations of malpractice, but the committee
    found no issue.
  • One physician submitted an application, but withdrew
    pending a decision by the board of medical examiners.
  • The board noted that denial of membership to a medical
    society is a National Practitioner Databank event, as well as
    extrication from membership.
  • Physicians: Christina Kushnir MD, Jimmy Diep MD,
    Claudio Bonometti MD, Lo Fu Tan MD, Sharon McKenna
    DO, Vladimir Sinkov MD, Kevin Golshani MD, Mark Allen
    DO, Wael Abdalla MD, Jonathan Harrison MD, Michael
    Hwang DO, Mark Ogilvie MD, Anil Rao MD
  • Residents: Habiba Azmat MD, Kevin Tran MD,
  • Students: Raya Aliakbar, Faun Botor

Motion to approve the December Member Applicants (M/S
approved: Baron/Adashek)

Committee Reports:
Medical Student & Resident Outreach Subcommittee (written
report submitted by Dr. Wint & Claire Chen with verbal
additions by Alexandra Silver)
Written Report:
2019 Medical Student & Resident Outreach Subcommittee
Leadership
• The Medical Student & Resident Outreach Subcommittee
  aims to smoothly transition leadership positions to the next
  generation.
• CCMS staff to send bylaws to committee members to ensure
  adherence.
• CCMS staff to send position information (i.e. duties, timeline
  to committee members.

Touro/UNLV Social Mixer
• Currently awaiting a response from PKWY Tavern.
• Currently awaiting information on alternative locations for
  the mixer.

Mentorship Program
• Refined mission statement, application, timeline, and
  presentation powerpoint to be presented with CCMS staff in
  early January for edits and possible presentation to CHPR
  committee.
• UNLV & Touro schedules to be worked into timeline
  consideration.

Verbal Additions:
• Members of the CCMS Board of Trustees are encouraged to
  attend the upcoming UNLV/Touro Student mixer
• The development of the CCMS Student Mentorship program
  is currently underwritten by Southwest Medical Associates.

Other Reports:
Southern Nevada Health District (written report submitted by
Dr. Iser)
Influenza Update – The Southern Nevada Health District is
reporting data collected from local acute care hospitals and
other health care providers. Through week 48 of the influenza
season (Dec. 1), influenza activity increased slightly at the local
and national level. In Clark County, there were 32 influenza-
associated hospitalizations reported in Clark County. The
proportion of emergency room visits for Influenza-Like Illness
(ILI) was 2.8 percent in week 48. Approximately 52 percent of
area ER and urgent care visits for ILI were children under the
age of 18. The Health District will continue to update the public
on the flu season and encourage people to get vaccinated.
Vaccination is recommended for everyone but is especially
important for those most at risk for complications from the flu.
At-risk groups include pregnant women, people with underlying
medical conditions, and people who care for infants younger
than 6 months and their family members, as they are too young
to receive the vaccine and vulnerable to the virus.

Health District influenza surveillance updates are available at
http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/
influenza-surveillance.php.

90-90-90 Call-to-Action – The Southern Nevada Health District
issued a call-to-action to community partners and health care
providers to implement HIV/AIDS interventions and strategies
to achieve the goal of 90-90-90 in Nevada. The 90-90-90 concept
is part of a broader framework of goals introduced by the United
Nations to eliminate HIV/AIDS as a public health threat. It is
based on the principle that 90 percent of people who are infected
with HIV will be diagnosed, 90 percent of those diagnosed will
be treated with antiretrovirals, and 90 percent of those receiving
treatment will be virally suppressed.

One in seven people living with HIV in the United States is
unaware of his or her status. Young people between the ages of
13 and 24 make up 20 percent of all new HIV diagnoses, Black/
African American populations have the highest rates of diagnoses
– nearly half at 44 percent – but represent only 12 percent of the
U.S. population, and in Clark County rates of new diagnoses have
remained flat while rates have declined throughout the rest of
the country. Clark County also bears most of the disease burden
for the state. The county’s population represents 73 percent of
Nevada’s population, but it accounted for 90 percent of the state’s
new HIV diagnoses in 2017. Eighty-five percent of people living
with HIV in Nevada reside in Clark County. Clark County also
experiences the same racial disparities evident at the national
level. Blacks/African Americans represent 11 percent of the
county’s population but accounted for 32 percent of the new HIV
diagnoses in 2017. In contrast, whites represent 46 percent of
the county’s population but only accounted for 32 percent of new
HIV diagnoses in the same year. Adults between the ages of 25
and 34 have the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses. However, the
rates for this group have remained stable for the last five years.

The Health District is doing its part to address this challenge with the implementation of several initiatives. Health District staff are completing Academic Detailing courses. This training will teach staff how to build stronger partnerships with the medical community, leading to increased patient interventions and expanded use of biomedical interventions such as PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis). More information on 90-90-90 is available at theconversation.com/hiv-aids-and-90-90-90-what-is-it-and-why-does-it-matter-62136. More information about PrEP is available on the Centers for Disease and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/index.html.

**World AIDS Day** – World AIDS Day is commemorated every year on Dec. 1. In observance of the 30th World AIDS Day, the Southern Nevada Health District offered free Express Testing for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia at its Sexual Health Clinic on Friday, Nov. 30 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Express Testing is available for people who are not showing symptoms of an STD and provides same-day HIV results. The Health District’s Sexual Health Clinic is open to clients 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The clinic also offers STD services including testing, treatment, exams, referrals, and counseling. Most insurance is accepted, or cost is calculated on a sliding scale based on income and the number of people in the household. Additional fees may apply depending upon lab testing services to diagnose and treat certain sexually transmitted infections. More information is available at (702) 759-0702 or visit www.SNHD.info.

The Health District also participated in the UMC Wellness Center event to announce its universal testing initiative and its efforts to implement UNAIDS Fast-Track strategies. The initiatives announced at the event align with the activities the Health District announced at its 90-90-90 Call-to-Action, including Academic Detailing and the expansion of PrEP services.

**Acute Flaccid Myelitis** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notified the Southern Nevada Health District it had confirmed the first case of Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) in a child in Clark County on October 17. AFM is a rare but serious condition that causes the muscles and reflexes in certain parts of the body to become weak and affects the spinal cord gray matter. According to the CDC, more than 90 percent of AFM patients had a mild respiratory illness or fever consistent with a viral infection before developing AFM. This condition is not new; however, the CDC has been investigating AFM since case reports increased in 2014. For more information regarding the CDC’s surveillance, visit the AFM Investigation page on its website.

The Health District is continuing to work with the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the CDC to investigate any additional suspect cases of AFM. Cases will be reported once confirmation is received through the CDC. As of Dec. 12, the CDC is reporting 158 confirmed cases of AFM in the United States. The CDC continues to work with health care providers and national, state, and local health departments to investigate AFM and look for possible risk factors and causes. More information on AFM is available on the CDC website at //www.cdc.gov/acute-flaccid-myelitis/afm-surveillance.html.

**Medical School Reports:**

**UNLV School of Medicine (written report submitted by Dr. Felkes with verbal additions)**

Written Report:

*New Pediatrics Chair* – Dr. Adib Rodriguez-Solares is taking over from Dr. Nevin Wilson. Dr. Rodriguez-Solares was the associate professor of pediatrics since 2015, was born and raised in Guatemala City, and attended San Carlos University School of Medicine then completed a fellowship in infectious diseases at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Wilson has stepped down after serving as chair since 2013, but will remain as a professor of allergy-immunology and will continue to see patients at UNLV Pediatrics Center.

**State of the School Demographic Information** – UNLV currently has 143 physicians, 66 School of Medicine Administrative Staff, 278 residents, 35 fellows, 120 medical students in 2 graduating classes, 370 practice plan (clinic) employees, 1,010 total employees and students, and 17 clinics averaging 500 outpatients per day, 10,000 per month.

Verbal Additions:

- UNLV held its inaugural “Grand Rounds” for UMC medicine featuring researcher Dr. Eduardo Marban from Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Marban is a stem cell researcher and discussed deconstructing regenerative medicine.
- In addition, UNLV had the recent past president of the American Heart Association discussing cardiac research.
- UNLV is working on a robust schedule of grand rounds in medicine for the future.
- The community faculty department has reached a milestone in their 5-step process over the next 18 months to move forward the community faculty development in relationship to the school of medicine. Step 3 was to hire a full-time community faculty manager, and that position has now been filled.
- We have a migration study on Engelstad Foundation grant looking at patient migration for Clark County and patient navigation. Our data hosting is setup; and we’ve gotten appropriate confidentiality paperwork. The study is focused on who is leaving town, what specialty what diagnosis they are leaving town for to help with GME training and addressing shortages. 5 surrounding states have provided data for the study.
Touro University Nevada (written report submitted by Dr. Meeks with verbal additions by Dr. Roth)

- Dr. Wolfgang G. Gilliar will be joining TUNCOM as Dean effective January 1, 2019. A copy of the press release announcing his appointment is attached. Dr. Gilliar is excited to be joining the Southern Nevada medical community and looks forward to working with CCMS to strengthen our partnerships.
- Touro held its 7th annual Season of Lights Soiree on December 2nd at the home of Tracy and Robert Eglet. Our thanks to the many CCMS members who joined us for this annual fundraising event for the Touro Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. We had a record attendance and raised more than $200,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, and silent/live auctions. Net proceeds from this event support families who cannot afford treatment.
- The Touro Gala is scheduled for Sunday, March 10th at the Four Seasons. This year's honorees are: Larry Ruvo of Southern Glasers Wine and Spirits of Nevada, Findlay RV, and the Engelstad Foundation. We are finalizing the agreement with our keynote speaker and hope to announce that after the holidays.
- Touro secured a $4 million gift from the Engelstad Foundation to support students and Touro's mobile outreach initiatives. $3 million of the gift is going to establish the Engelstad Scholars Endowment Fund – Touro's first endowed gift. The remaining $1 million went to expand and fund Touro's three Mobile Healthcare Clinics which provide medical care to underserved populations including the homeless and homeless veterans, low income seniors and others.
- Touro's Physician Assistant Studies program had a 100% first time pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) by the 2018 graduating class. This is a major achievement for the PA program and its graduates.
- Touro has been involved in a major redesign of its website. The redesign project has been underway for the past two years and we are excited to be unveiling the newly designed website in early 2019. More information about the launch of the new site will be provided.

NSMA: (written report submitted with verbal additions by Dr. Baron & Alexandra Silver)

Written Report:

- Nevada Physicians’ Day at the Legislature is February 25, 2019
- Stop the Bleed at the Legislature in progress (Date TBD)
- The Governor’s Commission on Behavioral Health has a vacancy. Per the NRS: a physician, other than a psychiatrist, licensed to practice medicine in this State and who has experience in dealing with intellectual disabilities, from a list of three candidates submitted by the Nevada State Medical Association. NSMA is looking for members who may be interested in serving, the deadline is December 31, 2018.
- Deadline to pay dues for 2018 is December 31, 2018.
- Pre-session GAC planning meeting is Thursday, January 10, 2018 at 6 p.m.
- PMP integration into your health records is moving forward. Please see attached notice of changes to the interface. Also, please note the attached list of EMR vendors. If your EMR vendor is not on the list, please contact Catherine@NVDoctors.org.
- Opioid law updates: The Board of Pharmacy has finished their regulations on the opioid law allowing informed consent and pain medication agreements to deal with a class of drugs rather than identifying a specific drug.
- The BME has approved the revised discipline regulation for violations relating to prescribing of controlled substances per AB474. Both regulations must be approved by the Legislative Commission before they are effective. NSMA is not clear if they will make the deadline for the next Legislative Commission meeting on December 19th but they will keep the Board informed.
- The Medicaid proposal to require prior authorizations for antibiotics is still pending. There was an attempted webex last week but it had technical difficulties which delayed the training for about 35 minutes and several physicians who planned to participate were unable to attend. NSMA is working with them to get clarity on what the next steps are, but with the Governor’s transition they are unsure of what will happen.
- Happy Holidays! The NSMA offices will be closed the week of December 24-January 1, 2019.

Verbal Additions:

- A group of physician members will be representing CCMS and NSMA at the Nevada Physicians’ Day at the Legislature on February 25, 2019.
- Student & resident members have expressed interest in attending the Nevada Physicians’ Day, however funding will need to be raised to cover the cost of travel.
- The Board discussed potential ways to raise funds through the CCMS Scholarship Fund.
- Dr. Jameson and Dr. Roth agreed to work with Alex to ensure students can attend through a donation of airline miles.

CCMS Alliance: (written report submitted)

The Alliance had a great December Luncheon at Carmines. They collected Items for Holiday Drive to benefit Charities, and attended the Las Vegas HEALS Holiday Party. The Holiday Scholarship Project now is in the next step as we start evaluating applications for scholarship recipients. The Billboards are due to go Live on 12/15/18. Look around the city for a Holiday Greeting applications for scholarship recipients. The Billboards are due to raise funds. The Alliance had a great December Luncheon at Carmines. They collected Items for Holiday Drive to benefit Charities, and attended the Las Vegas HEALS Holiday Party. The Holiday Scholarship Project now is in the next step as we start evaluating applications for scholarship recipients. The Billboards are due to go Live on 12/15/18. Look around the city for a Holiday Greeting applications for scholarship recipients.
NSBOM (written report submitted by Sandy Reed, Executive Director of NSBOM)

- As of 12/11/18, the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine has the following number of licensees for FY 2018-2019 (July-June): Total: 1,805; likely surpassing last fiscal year’s numbers by over 100 new licensees. Current breakdown is as follows: Doctors of Osteopath (DOs): 1,271; Active Physician Assistants (PAs); Special Licenses: 253; Inactive DOs: 89; Active Not Working PAs: 44.
- Complaint Statistics for Calendar Year 2018 – January through to September 30, 2018 are: Number of Complaints: 94; Dismissed Complaints: 76; Letters of Caution (Concern): 11; New Settlement Agreements: 2; Fulfilled Settlement Agreements: 2; Other Special: 3.
- The Board is currently seeking to fill a vacancy for the Investigator Position. The job announcement is posted on the Nevada State website through to December 14, 2018, under the “unclassified” section.

AMA: by Dr. Jameson (written report submitted, with verbal additions during meeting)

Written Report:
AMA Anti-Harassment Policy
During this year’s Interim meeting the House of Delegates came back together, after adopting the anti-discrimination policy (see attachment) at the 2017 annual meeting, to improve a resolution that seeks to strengthen the existing process outlined in their antidiscrimination policy for investigating and adjudicating claims. This resolution is intended to direct the AMA to engage independent, outside of consultants to examine and make recommendations I can improve the process for addressing any future claims of harassment. A progress report is due at the 2019 annual meeting in Chicago in June.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) in the LGBTQ community
Last month at the Interim meeting the AMA adopted a policy (see attachment) aimed at addressing IPV in the LGBTQ population. The resolution to states that “our AMA will: (1) promote crisis resources for LGBTQ patients that cater to the specific needs of LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence (2) encourage physicians to familiarize themselves with resources available in their communities for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence (3) advocate for federal funding to support programs and services for survivors of IPV that do not discriminate against underserved communities including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and (4) encourage the dissemination of research to educate physicians in the community regarding the prevalence of IPV and LGBTQ population, the accuracy of screening tools, effectiveness and early detection and interventions, as well as the benefits and harms is screening.” It should be noted that IPV includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression buy a current or former intimate partners.

Prior Authorization relief
Prior authorization has been a hot topic this year especially since 90% of physicians surveyed by the AMA say the prior authorization process leads to care delays in lower quality care. The need to fix prior authorization is a huge priority for the AMA and the fight to revamp the countries dysfunctional healthcare system. At this year’s interim meeting reference committee J presented resolution 814 “prior authorization relief in Medicare advantage plans” (see attachment) which has a resolve that states that “our I'm AMA support legislation and/or regulations that would apply the following processes and parameters to prior authorization for Medicaid and Medicare managed care plans and Medicare advantage plans: (1) ensuring that patient information material include full disclosure of any requirements (2) improving transparency by requiring plans to report on the scope of PA practices, including the list of services subject to PA and corresponding denial, delay, and approval rates (3) minimizing PA requirements as much as possible within each plan and eliminating the application of PA to services that are routinely approved (4) not denying payment for PA that has been approved unless fraudulently obtained (5) medications already being administered when a patient changes health plans cannot be changed by the health plan without discussion and approval of the ordering physician (6) making an and easily accessible and responsive direct communication tool available to resolve disagreements between health plan and ordering provider.”

Verbal Additions:
- The Executive Council discussed reaching out to the medical schools to review their sexual harassment policies and procedures to determine due process.
- The AMA has hired an outside consultant to develop policies and procedures, which Dr. Jameson will bring an update on after their next meeting.

President’s Report: by Dr. Roth
- Dr. Roth has continued to meet with the Deans of the medical schools to learn about the issues facing medical education in light of the upcoming legislative session.
The Executive Council encourages physicians to continue to reach out to their representatives and make their voices heard before the legislative session begins.

CCMS is exploring ways to engage the Alliance in reaching out to potential new members through welcome cards, gift baskets, etc. based on new licensees received from the medical boards.

Dr. Roth, Dr. Burkhead, and Alex continue to meet in order to improve day-to-day processes at CCMS.

Dr. Roth will be reaching out to Board members for assistance in reaching out to members who are about to lapse.

Executive Director’s Report: (written report submitted by Alexandra Silver with verbal additions)

Written Report:

- CCMS Staff Update: We have filled the Executive Assistant/Office Manager position. Starting on Wednesday, December 26th, Yami Escobar will join the team at CCMS bringing with her years of experience in Human Resources, Accounts Receivable and Non-Profit experience. We look forward to Yami officially joining the team.

- Membership Renewals are still going on, if you have not renewed your dues please do so. We can show how to do so today. This is also, a great opportunity to ask your colleagues, partners and referrals to join CCMS/NSMA today to. The more the merrier. Deadline to Renew is December 31st. www.nvdoctors.org

- Nomination Committee will be meeting January 3rd to start working on the 2019-20 Board slate. Please start considering your plans for the next board year and if you know of anyone you would like to nominate for the board...Several trustee positions and exec council spots are open.

- Installation Dinner Plans are underway. We have sold our first table and we need your help to make the 65th Installation Dinner the best and most lucrative yet. Please sell or fill a table save the date to go out in January.

- We are in need of members to participate in the Adult Mini Internship – March 4-14th. Please mark your calendars.

- CCMS team went to Reno to have a one-day all staff meeting with NSMA and WCMS for new database/membership and marketing. All agreed it was successful and productive.

- New Corporate Partners: Williams Pest Control 10% off all residential and commercial services for CCMS members.

- If you are not following us and engaging with CCMS you should be. We are on Facebook, twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Please take 2 minutes and follow CCMS on all social media outlets. Please follow us personally and have your practices do the same.

- Vendor coming tomorrow 12/19 for measurements/quote for Presidents Stone wall.

- CCMS Holiday office Closings: December 24-25th, December 31-January 1Happy Holidays.

New Business:

- Nevada State Bank has reached out to CCMS regarding partnership opportunities.

- CCMS Staff are in the process of reaching out to lapsed members within group practices to make sure their member information is up-to-date.

- The Nominating Committee is Dr. McHale, Dr. Penn, Dr. Littman, Dr. Eisen, Dr. El-Eid, Dr. Adashek, and Dr. Baron. A committee chair appointee is pending.

- Dr. Burkhead suggested an agenda item for the January BOT meeting to potentially form a subcommittee for the Installation Dinner to increase the number of sponsors and seats sold.

Future Board of Trustees Meeting – January 15, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment: 7:56 p.m.
ARE YOU HIPAA COMPLIANT?

- Is your network secure?
- Are you prepared for an audit?
- Do you have a disaster recovery plan?
- Do you have policies and procedures in place?
- Have all of your staff been trained on security practices?
- Are you prepared for a ransomware attack?
- What do you do if you have a breach?

Running a medical practice involves much more than treating patients. You must protect their personal information and we can help.

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TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS THROUGHOUT LAS VEGAS
Welcome Clark County Medical Society’s Newest Team Member,
Yami Escobar!

We are proud to announce the arrival of our newest team member to the Clark County Medical Society, Yami Escobar.

Yami joins the Clark County Medical Society as the Executive Assistant/Office Manager, bringing with her 16 years of experience in human resources, accounting, and non-profit operations. Most recently, Yami was the Onboarding Coordinator for the Ellis Island Casino, managing the onboarding process of over 50 employees per month in addition to her other responsibilities.

Joining the CCMS team, Yami looks forward to working with the members to increase our effectiveness and efficiencies to ensure our long-term financial sustainability. As a bi-lingual professional, Yami hopes to be able to help build a bridge with our Spanish speaking members and community and raise awareness of the Clark County Medical Society.

Born in El Salvador, and raised primarily in Southern California, Yami has lived in Las Vegas for nearly five years and is the proud mother of an 8-year-old son, named Angel who aspires to be either a Structural Engineer or garbage man when he grows up. They reside in the northwest part of the valley with their two cats named Emily and Ellie.

For questions or to join us in welcoming Yami to CCMS, Yami can be reached at yami.escobar@clarkcountymedical.org or 702-739-9989 ext 102.

We are grateful to have Yami on board and look forward to the positive impact we are confident she will bring to the table.

For questions or to join us in welcoming Yami to CCMS, Yami can be reached at yami.escobar@clarkcountymedical.org or 702-739-9989 ext 102.
How Technology is Advancing Medicine and Saving Lives

Free public Town Hall featuring local medical leaders, patient success stories

The Clark County Medical Society is proud to partner with the Las Vegas Medical District, the city of Las Vegas, Valley Hospital Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain health, Steinberg Diagnostic Medical Imaging and UMC to host a free town hall for the general public and stakeholders focusing on cutting-edge technology and innovation used by medical facilities within the Las Vegas Medical District.

The event, which takes place on Wednesday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers, will feature four key presentations on mammography, digital imaging, clinical trials, advanced heart care, and robotic surgery with a focus on patient success stories.

Dr. Jeffrey Roth, president of the Clark County Medical Society, will act as master of ceremonies as we learn about how local medical facilities are using the latest in medical technology to serve the Las Vegas community and save lives.

The event will feature introductory remarks from Mayor Carolyn Goodman, and Mayor Pro Tem Lois Tarkanian, and will feature presentations from Dr. Aaron Ritter of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Dr. Aanshu A. Shah of Steinberg Diagnostic Medical Imaging, Dr. Chowdhury Ahsan of University Medical Center, and Dr. Peter Caravella of Valley Hospital Medical Center.

Registration and networking will begin at 5:00 p.m., with opening remarks at 5:30 p.m.. Event attendees are encourage to stay and mingle at the post-event reception from 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., hosted by Valley Hospital Medical Center.

To RSVP for this event head to www.clarkcountymedical.org/rsvp
Touro University Nevada appoints Wolfgang G. Gilliar, D.O. as dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Touro University Nevada (TUN) is pleased to announce the appointment of Wolfgang G. Gilliar, D.O., as Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Henderson campus. Dr. Gilliar will begin his tenure as Dean effective January 1, 2019.

Dr. Gilliar comes to TUN from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) College of Osteopathic Medicine where he served as Dean and Professor for more than five years. He previously served as Professor and Chair of NYIT’s Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, as an adjunct Assistant Professor for Stanford University’s School of Medicine, and as Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Gilliar was the Director of the Acute Brain Injury Unit at Tufts University’s Greenery Rehabilitation Center in Boston.

Dr. Gilliar, an award-winning and internationally recognized academic leader in medical education, has served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Deans for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the New York Colleges of Osteopathic Educational Consortium. Dr. Gilliar was a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Medical Schools of New York. He has served as Chair of AACOM’s Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Medical Education Transition and member of the ACCOM Ad Hoc Committee on Governance. Dr. Gilliar was also the Inaugural Chair of the Advanced Test Items Committee for the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners and a member of the American Osteopathic Association’s Bureau of State Government Affairs Telemedicine Workgroup Affiliate. Dr. Gilliar was instrumental in introducing a three-year Osteopathic Manual Medicine Curriculum to the German Society of Osteopathic Medicine which has become recognized throughout Europe. Dr. Gilliar has received numerous awards, including the Educator of the Year Award (2012) bestowed by the American Osteopathic Foundation. In 2016, Dr. Gilliar was honored by Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine as the Alumnus of the Year. Dr. Gilliar has authored or co-authored more than 20 medical textbooks and numerous publications and video presentations.

“I feel tremendously honored to have been selected as the next dean of TUNCOM. Nothing could be more rewarding than preparing the physicians of the future by bringing the biological and science concepts of medicine together with a social and cultural mission. Through its expansion and recent innovations, TUNCOM stands poised to become a leader in this enhanced form of medical education as we develop joint health education skills with the various health professions.”

Established in 2004, the university is home to nearly 1,400 students in a wide range of degree programs including the state’s largest medical school, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, nursing, medical health sciences, occupational therapy, and education. Many of these programs are the first of their kind in Nevada. This year, Touro’s College of Osteopathic Medicine increased its class size from 135 to 181, making it the largest medical school in Nevada. In addition to the ground-breaking programs offered, Touro University Nevada is home to the Sharon Sigesmund Pierce and Stephen Pierce Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, the Michael Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation, the Stephen J. Cloobeck Regional Center for Disaster Life Support, and the Touro Health Center.

“The Touro College and University System is pleased to have Dr. Gilliar join us as Dean of the Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine,” said Dr. Alan Kadish, President. “As one of the nation’s top educators of medical professionals, Touro prides itself on the strength of its academic leadership. I am confident that Dr. Gilliar will be a fine addition to the Nevada campus and that his extensive background in medical education will greatly benefit the students and faculty.”

“I am delighted that Wolfgang is joining us at Touro as Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine,” said CEO and Senior Provost, Shelley Berkley. “He brings an extensive and diverse background in osteopathic medical education. He is a respected national leader within the medical community and I know that he will help strengthen Touro’s position as the leading medical educator in Nevada and in the country.”

“The TUN campus community was very impressed with Dr. Gilliar’s academic experience, as well as his enthusiasm, and his innovative ideas,” said TUN Provost Dr. Ray Alden. “I am confident that Dr. Gilliar will play a key leadership role in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and in the University as we advance our mission areas of medical education, clinical training, research and health care service to the citizens of Nevada. We are very pleased that he will be joining us.”

Dr. Gilliar received his Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1986. He graduated Cum Laude from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and with Honors in Physics. He completed a one-year rotating internship at Riverside Hospital in Trenton, Michigan before completing his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C. Dr. Gilliar is double board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine/Neuromuscular Medicine. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and a Fellow in the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Gilliar completed the Health Policy Fellow with the American Osteopathic Association in 2007.
Happy New Year!!!

The Clark County Medical Society Alliance (CCMSA) has chosen to benefit Autism for their philanthropy efforts this year by starting to build the bridge connecting our local autism and medical communities as individuals with autism transitioning with their families into adulthood. Three local 501(c)3 organizations offering socialization, recreation, upper-education and housing have been selected as this season’s funding recipients. The three organizations are: Sunshine Nevada, UNLV Project F.O.C.U.S, and New Vista.

Sunshine Nevada serves Ages 6-25 – Currently 3 Summer Camps and various Special Day Events. Sunshine Nevada aims to relieve isolation and hopelessness and to foster deep connections and companionship among children with special needs and their families. Each year Sunshine Nevada hosts’ free summer camps, Special Dates for Special Kids, and other community events geared toward providing children with special needs with experiences outside their often medically oriented routines. Sunshine Nevada staff and supporters work to present children with special needs opportunities for physical, mental and emotional growth, often involving a fun connection with nature and the outdoors.

UNLV – project F.O.C.U.S – serves ages 18 – 27 - 100% Inclusive with two year post secondary education program approved as a Comprehensive Transition Program by U.S. Department of Education “The purpose of [Project] F.O.C.U.S is to provide an inclusive, accessible and productive career education program for college aged students with intellectual, developmental disabilities in the Las Vegas Valley that promotes self-determination, community engagement and partnerships, job readiness and transitions into adulthood through person-centered planning, inclusive teaching, evidence-based research, and positive behavior supports.”

New Vista serves ages 15 – Lifespan, by providing in-home supported living arrangements, supported living arrangements in independently provided homes; New Vista provided homes and, or Foster Care. New vista supports and empowers youth and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. They supply supported living homes and an array of programs to promote independence, confidence and self-advocacy, giving their members the opportunities to experience life to the fullest.

We hope that we have your support to make a difference in the lives of individuals served from the three charities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CCMS & NSMA

January 8
CCMS Membership Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

January 9
Community Health & Public Relations Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

January 10
NSMA Government Affairs Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

January 11
CCMS Bylaws Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

January 15
CCMS Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

January 16
NSMA Public Health Comission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

January 21
CCMS Office Closed - MLK Day

January 24
NSMA Internal Affairs Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 4
NSMA Medical Practice Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 6
CCMS Student/Resident Outreach Committee Meeting
5:30 p.m. | CCMS Office

February 11
NSMA Legislative Core Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

For a full list of upcoming CCMS Events and committee meetings, go to www.clarkcountymedical.org/calendar
CCMS MEMBER NEWS
NEW PHYSICIAN MEMBERS

Wael Abdalla, M.D.
Diagnostic Radiology
2020 Palomino Ln, Ste #100
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Michael Hwang, D.O.
Diagnostic Radiology
2020 Palomino Ln, Ste #100
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Mark Allen, D.O.
Orthopaedic Surgery
1505 Wigwam Pkwy #330
Henderson, NV 89014

Christina Kushnir, M.D.
Gynecological Oncologist
3131 La Canada St, Ste 241
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Claudio Bonometti, M.D.
Cardiology/CCEP
700 E Silverado Ranch #170
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Sharon McKenna, D.O.
Family Medicine
874 American Pacific Dr.
Henderson, NV 89014

Jimmy Diep, M.D.
Cardiology
700 E Silverado Ranch #170
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Mark Ogilvie, M.D.
Diagnostic Radiology
2020 Palomino Ln, Ste #100
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Kevin Golshani, M.D.
Orthopaedic Hand Surgery
1505 Wigwam Pkwy #330
Henderson, NV 89014

Anil Rao, M.D.
Diagnostic Radiology
2020 Palomino Ln, Ste #100
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Jonathan Harrison, M.D.
Diagnostic Radiology
2020 Palomino Ln, Ste #100
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Vladimir Sinkov, M.D.
Orthopaedic Spine Surgery
1505 Wigwam Pkwy #330
Henderson, NV 89014
CCMS MEMBER NEWS

NEW PHYSICIAN MEMBERS CONTINUED...

Lo Fu Tan, M.D.
Family Medicine
7480 Manse Ranch Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89179

NEW RESIDENT MEMBERS

Habiba Azmat, M.D.
Internal Medicine
04 Round Stone Ct.
Las Vegas, NV 89145

Kevin Tran, M.D.
Ob-Gyn
1707 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 290
Las Vegas, NV 89102

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Raya Aliakbar
Touro University Nevada
Class of 2021

Faun Botor
UNLV School of Medicine
Class of 2021

CCMS News Right to Your Inbox
Are you signed up for the CCMS Email Newsletter? Get weekly roundups of health care news, CCMS events, and special membership offers by contacting us at communications@clarkcountymedical.org
Important changes coming to the Prescription Monitoring Program

By: Yenh Long, PharmD, BCACP, Program Administrator for the Nevada PMP

The Nevada Board of Pharmacy (BOP), in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Health, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), is excited to announce three new enhancements to the Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to assist practitioners in implementing and using the PMP in practice to better serve their patients. The three new enhancements are:

1. **Enterprise NarxCare®.** NarxCare® is a PMP platform that empowers clinicians, patients and state agencies with a more comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid addiction. NarxCare® provides prescribers and dispensers with objective insight, allowing them to identify patients that may be at risk for opioid addiction, overdose and death. NarxCare® works by aggregating and analyzing prescription information from providers and pharmacies. It presents that information in a visual and interactive manner. Those visual representations of the PMP data provide advanced analytic insights and complex risk scores to equip physicians, pharmacists and care teams with the tools and technology they need to help guide their clinical decision to better serve their patients. The NarxCare® platform can also accommodate additional information sources to create more holistic risk models, assessments and alerts. As a comprehensive platform, NarxCare® can provide tools and resources to enable care teams to better support patient needs. Key NarxCare® features include increased access to treatment through the medication-assisted treatment (MAT) locators, improving patient education and engagement through CDC information sheets and enabling the coordination of care across the continuum through powerful care team communications.

2. **Statewide PMP Integration.** In order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of use of the PMP, the BOP, in collaboration with DPBH, will improve interoperability of PMP information and content. The end goal is to provide all authorized healthcare entities – ambulatory care units, acute care facilities, emergency care units and others – the ability to integrate PMP information into their Health IT systems, be they Electronic Medical Records (EMRs), Electronic Health Records (EHRs) or Pharmacy Management Systems. This will allow practitioners and pharmacist to access PMP information within their clinical workflows, mitigating the need to sign onto a separate PMP database. This will save practitioners and pharmacists valuable time when providing care to patients.

3. **OpenBeds®.** OpenBeds® is a state-of-the-art platform that identifies, unifies, and tracks available substance use treatment inpatient beds, outpatient programs, and social resources to create a single, common network. OpenBeds® is cloud-based platform that facilitates immediate transfers/referrals of a patient seeking substance abuse treatment to an available substance use treatment program. It accomplishes this by providing real-time treatment facility availability, two-way digital provider communication, and data aggregation and analytics. The platform and service are fully compliant with federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements regarding security and confidentiality.

The three new enhancements will be rolled out in phases with an estimated completion date of December 2019. NarxCare® will become the PMP database for the state of Nevada replacing PMP AWARx®. The enhancements will be funded by the CDC Opioid Overdose Crisis Cooperative Agreement grant awarded to the state. While the BOP and DPBH would like to offer the Statewide PMP Integration and OpenBeds® to all clinic, pharmacies and hospital systems, these changes are not mandatory. Those entities who do not wish to adopt these enhancements are not subject to the changes.

**Wondering if your vendor is connected?**

**Check the list below!**

**EHR/EMR Vendors:**

- AdvancedMD
- Allscripts
- Amazing Charts
- Aprima
- athenahealth
- Bizmatics
- Bravado Health
- Cellarian Health
- Cerner
- Change Healthcare
- CHARM EHR
- Chetu
- ClariCare
- CMT
- CPSI (Evident)
- DoseSpot
- DrFirst
- Drs Weightloss Center
- DSS
- EasiestEMR
- EazyScripts
- eClinicalWorks
- EMedicalNotes
- eMedys
- EnSoftek
- Epic
- Flatiron
- Framework
- GE Health
- Glenwood Systems
- Greenway Health

Wondering if your vendor is connected? Check the list below!
Renew your CCMS & NSMA Membership Today!

As of January 1st, 2019, any unpaid memberships will become are lapsed, but renewals are quick and easy online!

Here are just some of the great reasons to be a member:

Help shape policy for important regulatory issues
CCMS and NSMA are positioned as one of the dominant stakeholders in the development and enactment of health policy. As a member, you can lend your voice to important issues and help shape policy that affects the practice of medicine in Nevada.

Stay Informed
Keep up to date on the latest health care news and information surrounding the practice of medicine in Nevada.

Protect & Support Public Health
Your membership contributes to effective public health advocacy to improve the quality of life in Nevada.

Education & Events
Join other physicians from all regions, specialties and methods of practice through collaboration, leadership, free continued education, community service, referral services and social events.

Exclusive Member Benefits
Get exclusive deals on goods and services such as IT support, Malpractice Insurance, and even discounted tickets to shows and events!

Contact us today! We are happy to answer any questions you may have about membership!

If you have already renewed, please disregard this message and have a safe and happy new years.

Thank you for being a member of CCMS & NSMA!
First flu-related deaths reported in Clark County

From the Southern Nevada Health District

The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting the 2018-2019 season's first flu-related deaths. One of the reported deaths occurred in a child in the 0-4 age group. The two adult patients who died were in the 50-64 age group.

“These flu-related deaths are tragic reminders that influenza is a serious illness,” said Dr. Joe Iser, Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District. “Young children, older adults, and people with certain health conditions may be more at risk for complications. It is not too late to get vaccinated this season, and we want to remind everyone to get a flu shot and to practice healthy habits to protect yourself and your family.”

As of Dec. 22, there were a total of 68 hospitalized influenza cases reported to the Health District. Flu cases are reported on a weekly basis, and reports are available on the Health District website. The Health District is reminding Southern Nevadans that flu season typically peaks in January and February and there is still time to receive a flu vaccine. For information about the Health District’s flu vaccine clinics call (702) 759-0850 or visit the Health District’s Flu Clinic page.

It takes approximately two weeks after vaccination for full protection to set in. Flu vaccination reduces flu illnesses and can prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Every year seasonal flu viruses cause substantial illness and death in the United States, much of which could be prevented with vaccination and other preventive measures. The Health District encourages everyone to get flu vaccinations, especially persons at high-risk of complications from the flu including children younger than 5 (children younger than 2 years old are at highest risk), adults 65 years of age and older, and pregnant women.

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or into your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs can spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the flu has caused between 9.3 million and 49 million illnesses, between 140,000 and 960,000 hospitalizations, and between 12,000 and 79,000 deaths annually since 2010. For more information visit the CDC’s Disease Burden of Influenza webpage.

States are not required to report individual seasonal influenza cases or deaths of people older than 18 years of age, and seasonal flu is infrequently listed on death certificates of people who die from flu-related complications. Many seasonal flu-related deaths occur one or two weeks after a person’s initial infection. The ill person may develop a secondary infection, such as bacterial pneumonia, or the flu may aggravate an existing medical condition, such as congestive heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

For more information on influenza activity visit the CDC’s website at: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm

Suicide Prevention

Friday, February 15, 2019 at Paris Hotel in Las Vegas

1:30—2:30 PM: “Is Suicide Preventable? Lessons From Robin Williams’ Death” by J. Michael Bostwick, MD

2:30—3:30 PM: “Essentials of Suicide Assessment: Why Bother?” by J. Michael Bostwick, MD

Suicide Prevention CME will be available and meets the requirement of AB105*

Offered as part of NPA’s 24th Annual Psychopharmacology Update course, February 13-16, 2019 at Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Three options to meet this requirement:

1) Sign up for the whole Update Course, February 14-16, at www.nvpsychiatry.org
2) Sign up for Friday, February 15, all day and 8 CME credits by going to www.nvpsychiatry.org
3) Sign up for just the 2 hours in the afternoon at a prorated fee by going to https://www.eizeverywhere.com/2019suicideupdate

Online registration is now open. For any questions, please call 1-877-493-0007 or go to www.nvpsychiatry.org.

*The 2017 Nevada Legislature added all physicians to the requirement to obtain 2 hours of CME in suicide prevention. The requirement applies within two years after initial licensure and thereafter every four years. Unfortunately this no longer meets the Ethics requirement.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine and Nevada Psychiatric Association. The University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine is accredited by the ACGME to provide continuing medical education to physicians. This live activity is approved for 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.
Join a Committee
More Involvement, More Impact

The Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) invites all members in good standing to participate in one or more of the standing committees. This offers members an opportunity to work with other physicians and influence CCMS policies on issues of interest.

You may choose to participate in more than one committee. We solicit active participation from committee members to achieve the most success in shaping the CCMS. Committee assignments begin in September and end in June 30th of the following year. Please provide a first and second choice of the committee that you are most interested in and email to membership@clarkcountymedical.org.

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Email: __________________________ Fax: ___________________________

CCMS Standing Committees:
☐ Board of Trustees (Elected Position Only) – CCMS at 702.739.9989
☐ Building Committee
☐ Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee
☐ Community Health & Public Relations Committee (CHPR)
   Sub-Committees under CHPR:
   ☐ Mini-Internship
   ☐ Speakers Bureau
   ☐ Winged Heart Awards
   ☐ Resident/Student Outreach
   ☐ Continuing Medical Education
☐ Credentials Committee
☐ Ethics & Grievances Committee
☐ Government Affairs Committee
☐ Internal Affairs Committee
☐ Membership/Credentials Committee
☐ CCMS Delegate: Participate in the Nevada State Medical Association Annual Meeting

If you have any questions about the purpose and obligations of any committee please contact the Clark County Medical Society at 702-739-9989 | membership@clarkcountymedical.org
HEALTH DISTRICT UPDATE

Health District issues call-to-action to achieve 90-90-90 goal in Nevada

Joseph P. Iser, M.D., DrPH, MSc | Chief Health Officer, SNHD
Member since 2013

The Southern Nevada Health District issued a call-to-action to community partners and health care providers to implement HIV/AIDS interventions and strategies to achieve the goal of 90-90-90 in Nevada. The 90-90-90 concept is part of a broader framework of goals introduced by the United Nations to eliminate HIV/AIDS as a public health threat. It is based on the principle that 90 percent of people who are infected with HIV will be diagnosed, 90 percent of those diagnosed will be treated with antiretrovirals, and 90 percent of those receiving treatment will be virally suppressed.

One in seven people living with HIV in the United States is unaware of his or her status. Young people between the ages of 13 and 24 make up 20 percent of all new HIV diagnoses. Black/African American populations have the highest rates of diagnoses – nearly half at 44 percent – but represent only 12 percent of the U.S. population, and in Clark County rates of new diagnoses have remained flat while rates have declined throughout the rest of the country. Clark County also bears most of the disease burden for the state. The county’s population represents 73 percent of Nevada’s population, but it accounted for 90 percent of the state’s new HIV diagnoses in 2017. Eighty-five percent of people living with HIV in Nevada reside in Clark County.

Clark County also experiences the same racial disparities evident at the national level. Blacks/African Americans represent 11 percent of the county’s population but accounted for 32 percent of the new HIV diagnoses in 2017. In contrast, whites represent 46 percent of the county’s population but only accounted for 32 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the same year. Adults between the ages of 25 and 34 have the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses. However, the rates for this group have remained stable for the last five years.

If Southern Nevada continues to hold its current course in terms of strategies and treatment plans, it will fall behind in its response to this epidemic. The tools to eliminate HIV as a public health threat in our community are available. It’s time for health care and public health professionals to leverage their resources to ensure fewer people are being infected, more people are being diagnosed, and once diagnosed they have access to effective treatment.

The Health District is doing its part to address this challenge with the implementation of several initiatives. Health District staff are completing Academic Detailing courses. This training will teach staff how to build stronger partnerships with the medical community, leading to increased patient interventions and expanded use of biomedical interventions such as PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis).

PrEP is offered to people who do not have HIV but who are at risk of getting it to prevent infection. The medication is taken once a day, in combination with other medicines. When taken consistently, the medication has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92 percent. People who are at high risk include those exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use. People who use PrEP must take it every day and see a health care provider for follow-up every three months.

The Health District began offering PrEP to clients in 2018 as part of its efforts to reduce HIV acquisition in the community. In 2019, the Health District is committed to expanding and enhancing clinical services and access to care beyond its public health centers. The Health District is looking forward to working with its medical partners to expand PrEP services in their practices and will be working to provide them with the resources to do so.

Health District reports imported measles case
Encourages Southern Nevadans to review immunization status

The Southern Nevada Health District has confirmed an internationally imported case of measles in Southern Nevada. This is the first confirmed case of measles in Clark County since 2015. The patient is a previously vaccinated adult with a history of international travel. Appropriate testing confirmed the case on Monday, Dec. 24. The Health District is notifying individuals who might have had contact with this patient and will not be releasing any additional information about the patient.

The measles vaccine is highly effective; however, some people may not be adequately protected. Recommendations for measles vaccination may vary depending on your age, occupation, or health status. For additional information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know page.

Because measles can be highly contagious, the Health District is advising people who visited the following locations between Monday, Dec. 10 and Tuesday, Dec. 18 to review their immunization status and contact their health care providers if they are not fully immunized against measles and have not already had the disease. In addition, they should contact their health care providers if they develop a rash with fever or other symptoms consistent with measles within 21 days after their visit to these locations. It is recommended that anyone with symptoms contact a health care provider’s office before entering a health care facility to allow the facility to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the illness is not spread.

- Young Israel Aish Las Vegas, 9590 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas 89117 Monday, Dec. 10 and Thursday, Dec. 13 or any synagogue-related activities during these dates.
- Trader Joe’s, 2315 Summa Dr., Ste. 100 Las Vegas 89135 Thursday, Dec. 13 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Albertsons, 2550 S. Fort Apache Rd., Las Vegas 89117 Thursday, Dec. 13 between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Costco, 801 S. Pavilion Center Dr., Las Vegas 89144 Thursday, Dec. 13 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Smart & Final, 8485 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas 89117 Thursday, Dec. 13 between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Starbucks, 340 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas 89109 Friday, Dec. 14 between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- Summerlin Hospital/Emergency Dept., 657 N. Town Center Dr., Las Vegas 89144 Sunday, Dec. 16 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Southern Nevada Health District, 280 South Decatur Blvd Las Vegas 89107 Monday, Dec. 17 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. main lobby/imputation waiting area
- Simon and Joe’s, 3720 W. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas 89103 Monday, Dec. 17 between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The risk of disease is low for persons previously vaccinated against measles or diagnosed with the disease. Because individuals who are not immune to measles might have been exposed between Monday, Dec. 10 and Tuesday, Dec. 18, the Health District is alerting the community about the possibility of measles transmission so that Valley residents have an opportunity to receive a measles immunization. The Health District advises anyone who develops measles symptoms to seek medical attention.

Measles can be spread among susceptible people and can result in serious infections resulting in pneumonia, encephalitis, seizures, and death. Many people born before 1957 had the disease in childhood, and younger people are routinely vaccinated against it.

Symptoms can begin up to 21 days after exposure to the virus. On average, an infected patient will develop a fever about 10 days after exposure to the virus. The fever can last two to four days and can peak as high as 103˚F to 105˚F. Following this, people will often also develop a runny nose, cough, and/or red eyes. On average, about 14 days after exposure the telltale rash appears; the rash can last five to six days. It begins at the hairline, moves to the face and neck, and eventually reaches the hands and feet. Measles can be spread approximately four days before the rash appears and four days after.

People who have had measles or have been adequately immunized against it are protected. Immunity can be determined by a blood test. People are considered immune if they were born before 1957 as many of them had the disease as a child or if they have written documentation of adequate vaccination:

- one or more doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered on or after the first birthday for preschool-age children and adults who are not at high risk
- two doses of measles-containing vaccine for school-age children and adults at high risk, including college students, healthcare personnel, and international travelers

Or if a blood test for measles antibody is positive.

For information about the Health District’s immunization clinics, call (702) 759-0850. Access information about the Southern Nevada Health District on its website: www.SNHD.info.
Touro's Founding Dean Joins UNLV School of Medicine

Dr. Forman says advances in graduate medical education in NV will help reduce shortage

From the UNLV School of Medicine

He had a shock of white hair, carried a black bag on house calls, mixed a good-natured wit with a sincere concern, and took care of patients even when they didn't have the money to pay.

When Dr. Mitchell Forman thinks back on his own decision to become a physician, he remembers Dr. Max Cassell, that white-haired Brooklyn doctor who took care of Forman and his family when Forman was a boy in the 1940s and '50.

“I had a wonderful experience with doctors growing up,” said Forman, also recalling the doctors who put him back together when he was injured while captain of his high school and college baseball teams. “Because my experiences with doctors were very positive, I never thought of becoming anything else,” said the UNLV School of Medicine professor.

After graduating from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1969, he completed his doctor of osteopathic degree from the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in rheumatology, Forman practiced in his native New York until he moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1992 as a rheumatology faculty member at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

In 2004, then a vice president at the Texas university, Forman jumped at the chance to help found the Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine in Henderson, which welcomes students of all faiths but acknowledges its Orthodox Jewish roots by keeping a kosher campus and closing on Jewish holidays.

"Pearl, my wife of 48 years, and my family supported my decision to go from New York to Texas and then on to Nevada," Forman says. "That meant a lot. Pearl is a professional in her own right, a P.A. (physician's assistant)."

He spent the next 12 years serving as Touro's founding dean. During that time, he also served terms as president of the Nevada State Medical Association and the Clark County Medical Society — eventually stepping down from his administrative role at Touro. In November he relocated his rheumatology practice to UNLV.

“I get an opportunity to spend more time with my patients,” said Forman, who is one of about only 30 rheumatologists in Nevada. He's booked already booked through February.

Today, as he looks back on his career, he says what's brought him the most satisfaction is his work as a clinician, helping people deal with lupus and other musculoskeletal diseases and systemic autoimmune conditions commonly referred to as rheumatic diseases. Those diseases can affect the joints, muscles, and bones, causing swelling, stiffness, pain, and deformity.

He became the Nevada media’s expert on rheumatic diseases, explaining, for instance, Sjogren's syndrome, the autoimmune disorder that caused tennis star Venus Williams to pull out of the 2011 U.S. Open. Sjogren's affects as many as 4 million Americans, 90 percent of them women. A disorder in which white blood cells target the body's moisture-producing glands, Sjogren's hallmark symptoms are dry eyes and dry mouth, but many patients also experience extreme fatigue and joint pain. It often takes a person years to get the right diagnosis because symptoms may be mistaken by doctors for depression or menopause or just dry eyes.

“I continue to find rheumatology challenging and interesting,” he said. “We can do more for patients today.”

While at Touro, Forman was quick to diagnose why Nevada has a shortage of doctors. “We don't have enough hospitals partnering with our medical schools to offer graduate medical education (residencies and fellowships).”

“Research has shown again and again that doctors end up practicing where they have their residencies or fellowships,” he said.

Today, he says graduate medical education in Nevada is moving in the right direction, with medical schools and hospitals and federal and state funding coming together to create more residencies and fellowship. “We are doing things more positively, so there will be fewer of our new doctors having to leave the state for graduate medical education.”

Dr. Forman has been a member of CCMS since 2006, and is a Past President.
Don’t miss the opportunity to participate in the Wear the White Coat Adult Internship Program March 4-14, 2019!

By Josh MacEachern, Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Clark County Medical Society

What’s it like to spend a day in the life of a doctor?

The Clark County Medical Society proudly announces this year’s Wear the White Coat Adult Internship program, taking place from March 4 - 14.

This program gives individuals an opportunity to observe the practice of medicine by shadowing a practicing physician. Our goal is to offer insight into the professional life of physicians, and to expand perspectives on health care issues between the medical community and community leaders. Interns and physicians join together at a recognition dinner on the final evening to share their experiences at Spiedini Ristorante at the JW Marriott. The knowledge and awareness gained from this exchange gives business leaders, legislators and media personnel a valuable resource to rely on when reporting and/or making decisions related to healthcare.

Over the past couple years of this program, our “Interns” have reported truly amazing experiences while shadowing a doctor. They are often surprised not only at the complexity of the doctor’s chosen specialty, but the ways in which they often have to navigate difficult rules and regulations while still providing the best possible care for their patients. In the end, many participants have a new appreciation for the work that our health care professionals do here in Southern Nevada.

We are currently recruiting physicians to volunteer their time to the 2019 Wear the White Coat Internship Program -- a half day’s commitment could forever change the way someone in our community looks at the practice of medicine here in Southern Nevada.

Interested in participating? Fill out the form on the opposite page and send it to communications@clarkcountymedical.org!

Left to Right: Dr. Andrew Eisen, Parker Kolberg, and Christian Kolberg

Dr. Beata Kwiatkowska & Valerie Weber
“Wear the White Coat” Internship Program PHYSICIAN
March 4 – March 14, 2019

Applications must be returned to communications@clarkcountymedical.org.

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION - Please print or type

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Recognition Dinner Thursday, March 14 | Spiedini Ristorante at the JW Marriott
6:00 pm Registration | 6:30 pm Dinner & Program
221 N Rampart Blvd | Las Vegas, NV 89145

Will you be attending to talk about your experiences?
☐ Yes, I will be attending the recognition dinner ☐ No, I am unable to attend the recognition dinner

---------------------------------------------- Signature ----------------------------- Date

2590 E Russell Road | Las Vegas, NV 89120 | Office: 702.739.9989 | Fax: 702.739.6345 | www.clarkcountymedical.org
MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

NEVADA PHYSICIAN DAY
AT THE LEGISLATURE
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

RSVP Online at www.nvdoctors.org/membership/events