ALL HYDROCODONE DRUGS MOVING TO SCHEDULE II

Over the Texas Medical Association’s (TMA) objections, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced it will reclassify drugs that contain hydrocodone combinations from Schedule III to Schedule II.

All hydrocodone and hydrocodone combination drugs will need to be written on an official Department of Public Safety (DPS) approved controlled substance prescription form. The official DPS approved prescription form is a single sheet prescription form that can be used to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances and must be ordered from DPS at a price of $9 per pad of 100 prescription forms. The new single sheet form replaces the old “triplicate form” that was used to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances. Physicians who still have “triplicate forms” can continue to use them if the DEA number on the forms is still current.

Here are some highlights of the reclassification:

- Goes into effect **Oct. 6, 2014.**
- Prohibits physicians from delegating to advance practice nurses and physician assistants the authority to prescribe these drugs outside of a hospital or hospice setting.
- Prevents physicians from calling in prescriptions for these medications to pharmacies (except in emergencies, in which case oral transmission must be followed up with written prescription within seven days).
- Requires physicians to use the official prescription pads from DPS for written prescriptions.
- Prohibits refills of prescriptions for these drugs without a patient visit or consultation.
- To purchase the new official DPS approved single sheet prescription form, go to [www.txdps.state.tx.us/InternetForms/Forms/RSD-10.pdf](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/InternetForms/Forms/RSD-10.pdf). Each prescription pad will be unique to that particular physician and is nontransferable between physicians. Each pad will have a preprinted DEA, DPS and a unique control number that allows for reporting and tracking of Schedule II controlled substances by provider.
- Federal and Texas law does not have a 30-day supply limit for schedule II controlled substances. However, if a physician writes multiple prescriptions for the same narcotic, then the total number of days may not exceed 90 days.

Schedule II controlled substances can be prescribed electronically; however, both the physician and receiving pharmacy will have to take additional steps to comply with state and federal law.

(Source: TMA, DPS, and DEA)

---

50th Annual NCMS Health Fair
SAVE THE DATE

08.01.15

***Thanks to another event rescheduling, we’re back in August!***
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

At its September 8th meeting, the Executive Board took the following action:

- It was agreed to remind members of standing NCMS rule prohibiting political candidates from speaking at NCMS events without prior clearance by the Executive Board.
- It was agreed to sign agreement with Medical Service Bureau (Travis County Medical Society) to offer telephone answering service as a benefit to members.
- Muhamad N. Almouie, MD, Pediatrics; Eugenia Chong, MD, Neonatology; Carissa Kirk, DO, Orthopedic Surgery; Sarita Warrick, MD, Family Medicine; were approved for Active Membership.
- Teodoro Saieh, MD, Plastic Surgery, was approved for Life Membership.
- **Driscoll Children’s Hospital:** Guru V. Bhojjawon, MD; Lila Estrada Fajardo, MD; Elizabeth V. Garcia, MD; Audrey L. Gonzalez, MD; Cesar E. Gonzalez de Alba, MD; Gangadeep K. Kooper, MD; Jennifer A. Lammas, DO; Anshu M. Mahadeo, MD; Fernando R. Medina Carbonell, MD; Fernando Molina Berganza, MD; Zaineth Maria Nunes Montiel, MD; Netochukw A. Okafor, MD; Mekam T. Okoye, MD; Febina Padiyath, MD; Laith Salih, MD; Vivek, Sroha, MD; Sviatlance Sirash, MD; Moina Snyder, DO; were approved for Resident Membership.

**‘HOT’ MEMBER BENEFIT**

Have a legal question? Ask the TMA Knowledge Center!

The Texas Medical Association Knowledge Center will help answer legal questions, as well as payments, coding and billing, questions about TMA seminars, and more. For Knowledge Center assistance, email knowledge@texasmed.org or call 800-880-7955.

**NEWCOMERS’ PARTY 2014**

September 4th | Corpus Christi Yacht Club

(Pictured l to r): Aimee Schimizzi, M.D. and Andrew Indresano, M.D. with Shaeem Karim, M.D. and his wife, Mailan Cao; Cathy Montgomery and Michael Montgomery, M.D.; mixing and mingling at Newcomers’ ‘14.
HIT PARADE
New flexibility in 2014 Meaningful Use
A new rule published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Aug. 29, will give physicians and physician practices additional flexibility to meet Meaningful Use (MU) requirements for 2014. Physicians and physician practices that could not fully upgrade or implement their Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems to the 2014 edition Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT) for MU Stage 2 will be able to complete their 90 days attestation, using MU Stage 1 criteria and the 2013 edition CEHRT.

(Source: CMS and The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT)

Join the Alliance
The Nueces County Medical Society Alliance is an organization for your spouse to foster social networks, assist the health-related needs of the Corpus Christi Community, and build strong friendships.

Whether you are new to Corpus Christi; want to get involved; or want to join some new groups for fun, the NCMSA is a great place to start.

Contact Bridget McKeever (bmckee4@aol.com) or Kymberley Oshman (kaoshman@cs.com) for NCMS Alliance Membership details.
TMA COMMENTS ON TDI DRAFT RULES FOR INDEPENDENT REVIEW ORGANIZATIONS

TMA told the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) in a letter that the association will oppose any potential fee increases affecting physicians involved in a review of an independent review organization (IRO). TMA provided comments Aug. 15 on TDI’s informal draft rules for IROs.

“TMA is particularly concerned about how potential fee increases might adversely impact access to care for injured workers, in those situations involving retrospective reviews for non-network services,” the letter states, adding that “fee increases would compound the administrative burden on non-network physicians who provide, in good faith, services they believe are medically necessary and in the best interests of the patient.”

In the letter, TMA also commented on TDI’s proposed requirements for the submittal of an application to be certified as an IRO and on licensure qualifications for personnel conducting independent reviews for an IRO.

“The draft rules would require the IRO to be “under the direction of a medical director who is a physician currently licensed and in good standing to practice medicine by a state licensing agency in the United States,” the letter states. “TMA would prefer that the rules require the IRO to be under the direction of a medical director who is a physician licensed in this state; however, TMA acknowledges the existence of current state law that provides for utilization review to be under the direction of a physician licensed to practice medicine by a state licensing agency in the United States.”

(SOURCE: Action, Sept. 15, 2014)

SURVEY: U.S. PHYSICIANS OVERWHELMINGLY DISHEARTENED; Texans Even More So

Overworked physicians, harried by mountains of federal regulations and the looming switch to ICD-10, seeing little help from electronic health records (EHRs), their clinical autonomy threatened, are pessimistic about the state of the medical profession, according to one of the largest and most comprehensive physician surveys conducted in the United States. Texas physicians were even more negative. The 2014 Survey of America’s Physicians: Practice Patterns and Perspectives, conducted by The Physicians Foundation, queried more than 20,000 physicians nationwide. More than 1,800 Texas physicians responded to the survey. Among the key findings:

• Nationally, 55 percent are “very” or “somewhat” negative about the current state of the medical profession. Among Texas physicians, that figure is almost 64 percent.
• Half of all physicians and 61 percent of Texas physicians are “very” or “somewhat” negative or pessimistic about the future of their profession.
• About 80 percent of all physicians, and a like share of Texans, say they are “overextended and overworked” or “at full capacity.”
• Physicians spend a staggering 20 percent of their time on nonclinical paperwork.
• Half of all U.S. physicians, and 58 percent of the Texans, say the switch to ICD-10 next year will “create a severe administration problem.” Only 11 percent of U.S. doctors and 8 percent of Texas physicians say the shift will “improve diagnosis or quality of care.”
• About 80 percent of Texas physicians — and 85 percent of the entire sample — say their practice has put an EHR system in place. Almost one-third of those nationally, and a quarter of the Texans, say the EHR has improved the quality of care. But across the board, about one-fourth say it has detracted from the quality of care, nearly half say it has detracted from practice efficiency, and almost as many say it has detracted from the quality of patient interaction.
• When it comes to clinical autonomy, almost 18 percent of Texas doctors and 15 percent of physicians nationwide say “my decisions often are compromised.”

I will drill down into some more specific data sets from the survey in coming weeks.

(Source: TMA, September 22, 2014)
**NCMS 2015 Slate of Candidates**
Proposed by the NCMS Nominating Committee

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Al Gest, M.D.  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** David Vanderheiden, D.O.  
**SECRETARY:** Justin Hensley, M.D.  
**TREASURER-ELECT:** Vishnu Reddy, M.D.

**BOARD OF CENSORS, PLACE #2 THROUGH 2015:** Marita L. Rafael, M.D.  
**BOARD OF CENSORS, PLACE #2 THROUGH 2016:** Lloyd Stegemann, M.D.  
**BOARD OF CENSORS, PLACE #1 THROUGH 2017:** Adam Spengler, M.D.  
**BOARD OF CENSORS, PLACE #2 THROUGH 2017:** John Lusins, M.D.

**TMA DELEGATE PLACE #1 THROUGH 2016:** John McKeever, M.D.  
**TMA DELEGATE PLACE #2 THROUGH 2016:** Jane O. Stafford, M.D.  
**TMA DELEGATE PLACE #3 THROUGH 2016:** Ernest Buck, M.D.  
**TMA DELEGATE PLACE #4 THROUGH 2016:** Rene Rodriguez, M.D.

**ALTERNATE TMA DELEGATE PLACE #3 THROUGH 2015:** Dorothy Fuentes, M.D.  
**ALTERNATE TMA DELEGATE PLACE #1 THROUGH 2016:** Jack L. Cortese, M.D.  
**ALTERNATE TMA DELEGATE PLACE #2 THROUGH 2016:** Jacob Moore, M.D.  
**ALTERNATE TMA DELEGATE PLACE #3 THROUGH 2016:** Vijay Bindingnavele, M.D.  
**ALTERNATE TMA DELEGATE PLACE #4 THROUGH 2016:** Blake O’Lavin, M.D.

To submit additional nominations via mail, they must be received prior to the close of business on the day prior to the October Membership Meeting (October 8); and, they must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee in which the nominee agrees to have his/her name placed in nomination. Nominations from the floor will be taken during the October Membership Meeting, but they will not be accepted unless the nominee has filed, prior to the October meeting, a written statement in which the proposed nominee agrees to have his/her name placed in nomination.

---

**MEDICARE CORNER**

**Medicare Fingerprinting Has Begun**  
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began on Aug. 6, conducting fingerprint based background checks for all physicians and health care providers with a 5 percent or greater ownership in an organization. This is required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These are considered high-risk organizations and include such organizations as durable medical equipment companies and/or home health agencies. This requirement will be phased in and the fingerprint requests will come from Novitas, the Texas Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). Physicians and other health care providers will have 30 days to comply with the request. Failure to do so could impact the physician's and/or health care provider's Medicare enrollment status.

*(Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)*
NCMS History Book: “Care By the Sea”

$39 + tax

Author signed copies are available.
call (361) 884-5442 today!

HISTORY

HISTORY

HISTORY

HISTORY

Betterlife Bariatrics is a premiere weight management clinic located on Esplanade Drive near Staples and Saratoga. Our program is recognized as a Certified Center of Excellence in Bariatric Surgery that has safely cared for thousands of patients across South Texas.

Treatment Options:

- Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass
- LAP-BAND
- Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy
- Laparoscopic Revision surgery
- Advanced Band Adjustment Clinic
- Medical Weight Management Clinic

5826 Esplanade Blvd., Ste 201 • (361) 986-0404 • (361) 886-0415 Fax
www.betterlifebariatrics.com

B. Dean McDaniel, DO, FASMBS
COMING SOON: YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Nueces County Medical Society (NCMS) membership renewals for 2015 are right around the corner! Make sure you continue to receive the benefits of NCMS and the Texas Medical Association (TMA) by renewing your membership in October. Renewing your membership is FAST and EASY! Pick one of the following methods that work best for you.

1. Renew online at www.texmed.org/joinrenew.aspx;
2. Set up an installment plan by calling the TMA Knowledge Center at 1-800-880-7955; or
3. Pay by check – Make payable to Nueces County Medical Society and mail to us at 1000 Morgan Avenue, Corpus Christi, TX 78404.

Two years ago, for the first time in twenty-one years, NCMS implemented a dues increase plan that included $10 per year for 4 years. 2015 will be the third year of that dues increase plan. NCMS is the leading advocate for physicians, their patients and the community in Nueces County. Together with the TMA, the largest state medical association in the nation, we are a strong physician advocate in the state. Your dues enable both organizations to defend physician and patient interests and help physicians protect the viability of their practices.

Your 2014 membership expires on Jan. 1, 2015. If you have questions, please contact the NCMS Membership Office at (361) 884-5442.

FIGHT THE FLU WITH TOOLS FROM TMA

Flu season is just around the corner, and TMA’s Be Wise -- Immunize™ has tools you can use to protect yourself, your staff, and your patients:

- Remind your employees about the importance of getting their flu vaccination.
- Plan a flu shot clinic for your community with the help of a Local Impact Grant from Be Wise. Grants of up to $2,000 are available to county medical societies, TMA Alliance chapters, medical student chapters, and TMA member-physician practices/clinics. Applications are due Oct. 1.

To order flu education materials or for help planning your flu vaccination event, contact Tammy Wishard, TMA’s outreach coordinator, at tammy.wishard@texmed.org or (512) 370-1470.

TMA launched Be Wise –Immunize™ in 2004 to increase Texas’ immunization rates. Since then, the program has provided more than 255,000 shots to Texas children adolescents, and adults.

Be Wise – Immunize™ is a joint initiative led by TMA physicians and the TMA Alliance. Funding for Be Wise – Immunize™ is provided by the TMA Foundation thanks to generous support from HEB, TMF Health Quality Institute, and gifts from physicians and their families.

(Source: TMA)

PREPARE YOUR OFFICE FOR A DISASTER

In case of emergency … NCMS has resources

The Nueces County Medical Society (NCMS) provides emergency information to physicians when a disaster or public health crisis occurs. In the past, NCMS has provided resources after Hurricane Ike, requests for volunteers for Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees, information on H1N1, and much more.

By going to www.nuecesmedsociety, you can register with the Medical Reserve Corps, which will provide you with liability immunity for rendering care in a declared emergency, sign up for the NCMS Physician Alert System so that NCMS can contact you in case of an emergency or public health crisis, and download information on preparing your practice and patients for a disaster.

(Presented by the NCMS Emergency Preparedness Committee)
Please join us for a program regarding the cobas® HPV Test

A New Paradigm in Cervical Cancer Screening

This program is about cervical cancer screening and the role of HPV testing as a first line, primary screening tool. Emphasis will be on the primary screening algorithm, ATHENA study 3-year follow up results and the data that supports HPV screening for women 25 and older.

When:       Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 6:15 PM
Where:      Yoshi Japanese Cuisine
            5898 Everhart Road
            Corpus Christi, TX 78413
Who:        Lee Philip Shulman, MD

Program ID #: 1116

Program Registration
To register for this program, please visit the Roche cobas® HPV Test speaker bureau online hub at www.cobasHPVtestspeakerbureau.com or call the Roche cobas® HPV Test speaker bureau phone line at 1.855.76.COBAS (26227). When you register, please plan to provide the following information: name, credentials, employer, work address, state license number, NPI# and if you are an employee of a federal agency, as there are special meal restrictions that apply to you.

Disclaimer: Roche has certain federal and state reporting requirements under applicable laws, including without limitation, reporting requirements under the Physician Payment Sunshine Provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to track, disclose and report certain payments and transfers of value made to certain health care professionals. As a result of enacted state regulations, individuals who are healthcare professionals licensed in the state of Vermont may not be provided food/beverage/meals.
TMA EDUCATION CENTER

TMA Practice Management Webinars: One Hour CME, One Fee for Entire Staff

Have an hour and need to earn some continuing medical education (CME) credit? Need to train staff about a specific topic?

The Texas Medical Association offers a range of one-hour, on-demand webinars to fulfill your licensure requirement and to improve your professional skills and those of your staff. These Texas-specific programs delve into topics of today’s medical practices related to medical records, patient relations, legal considerations and more.

For the full list, go to the TMA Web site at www.texmed.org/Distance.aspx. Many of the webinars offer ethics CME, and most count toward a Texas Medical Liability Trust (TMLT) insurance discount. TMLT insured who watch any combination of three can earn a three percent discount on their premiums, up to $1,000.

Physicians pay only one fee per webinar, and their entire staff can watch the program course. You may start and stop the program at your convenience, continue where you left off, and review supporting materials as often as you like.

TMA will continue to add topics throughout the year. Go to www.texmed.org/Distance.aspx, or contact TMA Knowledge Center at 800-880-7955 or knowledge@texmed.org.

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND: TMA WEBINARS

- Avoiding RAC Audits
- Avoiding Fraud and Abuse
- Avoiding the Courthouse: 10 Practice Pitfalls
- Complying With HIPAA and Texas Privacy Laws
- Complying With HIPAA Security
- Dealing With Difficult Patients
- Do You Know What to Do When Facing a CMS Audit?
- Ending the Patient-Physician Relationship: When Can We Call it Quits?
- Employed Physicians and Contracting Issues
- 10 Ways to Turn Satisfied Patients into Loyal Patients
- Evaluating Your Medicare Options
- Front Office Precautions: Creating a Successful Patient Relationship
- HIPAA Training for Medical Office Staff
- How to Talk to Patients about Tobacco Cessation
- ICD-10 Starts With Physicians
- Identifying Genetic Predisposition to Cancer – BRCA and Lynch
- Is That Health Plan Contract Good for Your Practice?
- Issues and Answers in Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Making Discussions About Death and Dying Easier
- Patients, Physicians, and Social Media
- Prescribing Exercise for Cancer Survivors
- Successfully Integrating Non physician Providers into Your Practice
- The Older Patient Office Visit: Tips and Techniques
- Write, Click, or Paste…the Changing World of Documentation
NCMS Directory is HERE!

The 2014-15 NCMS Pictorial Directory is now available.

Distribution of the 2014-2015 Nueces County Medical Society Pictorial Directory has begun. Nueces County Medical Society (NCMS) members will automatically receive one copy as a member benefit.

The Directory is full of helpful sections, which include: physicians listed alphabetically; physicians listed by specialty; practice listings for patient referrals; and advertisers indices for companies that serve physicians (by alphabet).

Extra copies are now available for purchase at the member rate of $20 plus tax and shipping.

To place an order, call Rachael Greve, at 361-884-5442, or go to www.nuecesmedsociety.org

CONFERENCES

TMA Business Boot Camp: “Take Charge of Your Finances”
Oct. 15, 2014
Corpus Christi Medical Center – Doctors Regional Campus, Corpus Christi
$79 each
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

TMA/PHR Conference: “Physician Well-Being for Life”
Oct. 24-25, 2014
The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas
NEW OPTION FOR PROVIDING LARCS TO MEDICAID, TWHP PATIENTS

Physicians now have a new option for providing select long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARCs) to their Medicaid or Texas Women’s Health Program (TWHP) patients.

Effective Aug. 1, the Texas Health and Human Services commission (HHSC) added Mirena and Skyla to the Medicaid drug and device formulary, allowing physicians the option of writing a prescription for the devices instead of buying and billing, as they had to do before the change.

To provide the device using the patient’s pharmacy benefit, a physician will send a prescription to one of two specialty pharmacies contracted with HHSC to provide LARCs: CVS CarePlus Specialty Pharmacy or Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy. HHSC says physicians who have patients in managed care should “work with the patient’s managed care organization (MCO) to determine which pharmacy should receive the prescription form. The MCO may be contracted with a single specialty pharmacy.” The pharmacy will ship the device to the practice. Physicians will then bill the patient’s Medicaid HMO, traditional Medicaid, or TWHP for device insertion only.

For the participating specialty pharmacies’ contact information, visit the Texas Medicaid Vendor Drug Program website.

Only Mirena and Skyla are available under the new option, though HHSC continues to negotiate with other LARC manufacturers to provide their products via the pharmacy benefit.

A LARC obtained through the pharmacy benefit must be used only by the patient to whom the physician prescribed it. However, physicians will be able to return unused and unopened LARC products to the manufacturer’s third-party processor.

The new option will make it financially viable for many practices to provide LARCs to their Medicaid and TWHP patients. Currently, the buy-and-bill process means the practice is financially on the hook if the device’s acquisition cost exceeds Medicaid payment. Practices may, however, continue to obtain Mirena and Skyla through the existing process.

The Texas Medical Association, along with the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Texas chapter, encouraged HHSC to make the change to increase LARC use.

According to an HHSC analysis provided to TMA, Texas lags the nation in use of LARCs. Yet numerous studies show increased use of long-acting contraception, such as implants or intrauterine devices, substantially reduces rates of unintended pregnancies and helps women better plan and space their pregnancies. HHSC also is researching a TMA-backed initiative to pay for immediate postpartum insertion of LARCs. Increasing LARC use among Medicaid and TMHP enrollees has the potential to improve birth outcomes while reducing Medicaid costs.

(Action, Sept. 15, 2014)
NEED HELP INCREASING REVENUE FOR YOUR PRACTICE?
Register today for the Texas Medical Association (TMA) course Business Basics for Physicians. This course offers 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, including 3.5 credits in medical ethics. Your passion as a physician is caring for patients, but to realize your calling, you need solid business skills. For practices to remain viable in today’s ever-changing payer and regulatory atmosphere, physicians need to have a grasp of fundamental business principles and how to control costs and increase revenue for their business.

The cost is $69 for TMA members.

To learn more information about this course, go to texmed.inreachce.com/ and select Practice Operations/Business Basics for Physicians.

ACLS RENEWAL & PROVIDER COURSES

The South Coastal Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will sponsor the next ACLS 2 Day Provider/Renewal Course on Friday and Saturday, October 10 & 11, 2014. The courses will be held at CHRISTUS Spohn Corpus Christi Memorial Hospital. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.

The Renewal Course is 8 am - 12 pm on Saturday. Registration fee covers the updated AHA/ACLS Provider Manual, study materials, refreshments, continental breakfast and lunch. Attendees must present a current ACLS card at the door for verification upon check-in.

The Combined BLS/ACLS Renewal Classes is October 25, 2014 at 10am.

The South Coastal Area Health Education Center is accredited by TMA to sponsor CME for physicians and designates this activity as meeting the criteria for 16 credit hours in Category 1 of the PRA of the AMA.

Contact, Mary Moreno: mmorenogcahec@yahoo.com or Joanne: (361) 881-8133.
CONGRESS APPROVES OVERHAUL OF VA

Congress approved a widespread overhaul of the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Texas Medical Association (TMA) has been calling on the nation’s leaders to clear existing bureaucratic landmines – slow payment and lack of interaction between the VA and the private sector, for instance – so private-sector physicians can help get veterans the timely care they need.

The legislation pours $10 billion into helping those veterans who cannot get a VA appointment within 30 days or who live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility obtain health care outside the VA system from private-sector physicians and a Department of Defense or Indian Health Service facilities.

The law’s $17 billion in total emergency funds includes $5 billion that allows the VA to hire new employees and $1.3 billion to lease 27 new medical facilities. The law prohibits the VA from using wait times to gauge workers’ job performance, instead focusing on quality of patient care.

Last month, TMA President Austin King, MD, unveiled TMA’s registry of private physicians willing to see patients in the VA health care system. Dr. King shared information about the registry with the director of every VA hospital, clinic, and veteran center in the state.

TMA developed the registry after the American Medical Association House of Delegates, at the urging of Texas physicians, voted overwhelmingly to ask President Barack Obama to provide timely access to entitled care for eligible veterans through the health care sector outside the VA system until the VA can provide care in a timely fashion.

So far, more than 350 TMA member physicians have signed up for the association’s registry. If you have not signed up for the registry, go to the TMA website at www.texmed.org and check the “I am willing to serve veterans” box.

(WIN $5000 FOR YOUR CHAMPION OF HEALTH!

Nominate a program in your town or city that promotes healthy lives and healthy communities by Nov. 15, and it may win a $5000 grant and bronze commemorative statue. The 2015 TMA Foundation John P. McGovern Champion of Health Award focuses on exceptional projects that address urgent threats to the public’s health and those that further TMAF’s mission, “to help physicians create a healthier future for all Texans.”

Established in 1995, the award has recognized local and statewide programs for their innovative and effective ways of reaching Texans. It is named after John P. McGovern, MD, a philanthropist and humanitarian, who founded the John P. McGovern Foundation in Houston. Dr. McGovern established a permanent endowment at TMAF, which supports this award.

Deadline for entries is Nov. 15, 2014; winners are notified December 2014; and presentation of the award is Jan. 30, 2015, at 2015 TMA Winter Conference, Hyatt Regency, Austin. Visit www.tmf.org, or contact TMA Foundation at (800) 880-1300, ext. 1664, or (512) 370-1664, for nomination forms and more about the program.

ETHICS CORNER

If something happened to you...

We all hate to think about it, but the reality is, we could become incapacitated or pass away suddenly. Are you prepared? Is your practice prepared? How would your patients find out? What arrangements are in place so they can easily obtain copies of their medical records?

If you have not begun making arrangements, talk with your colleagues, office staff, family members, medical risk management/liability carrier, and attorney, and put procedures in place. Make sure your patients are taken care of and your practice is prepared.
October 8th
6:15PM
YOSHI ZUSHI & JAPANESE CUISINE
5898 EVERHART RD.

LEE PHILIP SHULMAN, M.D., KEYNOTE SPEAKER

COST FOR SPOUSES IS $18.00 AND $30.00 FOR NONMEMBER GUESTS
NO CHARGE FOR ACTIVE NCMS AND RPO MEMBERS

PLEASE CALL (361) 884-5442 BY 5PM ON MONDAY OCTOBER 6TH
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.

TMA SEMINAR
Business Boot Camp: Take Charge of Your Finances
Do you know where your revenue comes from and where it goes – every week? Is your workflow lean and efficient? Passive financial management can rob you of the resources you need to care for your patients. Take charge of your practice finances and secure your future!

This seminar show you how to:
• Monitor revenues and expenses
• Bill smart and collect what’s due
• Fine-tune your payer mix
• Avoid incentive program penalties

Whether you need to sharpen your financial skills or learn new ones, it’s time to take your practice through boot camp!

When: October 15, 2014
Where: Corpus Christi Medical Center – Doctors Regional Campus, 3240 Fort Worth (@Texan Trail)
Registration: $79 each, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

The Texas Medical Association designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.25 AMA PRA Cat. 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The Texas Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.
Nominations are Now Open for the 2014 Corpus Christi Under 40 Awards!

Do you know a dynamic young professional excelling in their career and in their community efforts? Nominate them for the Corpus Christi Under 40 award.

Visit ccu40.org for nomination form & e-mail nominations to CCunder40@gmail.com

Nomination deadline is October 21 at 12 midnight

ABOUT CORPUS CHRISTI UNDER 40:
Corpus Christi Under 40 exists to honor the men and women under the age of 40 that are dedicated to making a difference in Corpus Christi. Be it in education, health care, or technology, it is those individuals with the perseverance and determination that create culture and opportunity for others in our community.

For more information, go to ccu40.org or call Lori Garza at 361.825.2352
The Nueces County Medical Society (NCMS) established Friends of the Society to invite businesses that serve physicians the opportunity to support NCMS and increase their visibility among NCMS members. Corporate support of NCMS contributes to its ability to advocate and care for physicians and patients in Nueces County. NCMS thanks these organizations who are Friends of the Society.

Please consider these organizations for your practices. For information about their products and services, go to www.nuecesmedsociety.org, and click on the Friends of the Society tab at the top of the page. Participation in Friends of the Society does not constitute an endorsement by NCMS of the participating organizations or the organizations’ products and services.