

Leadership Report
CHEST 2009
ACCP Practice Management Committee (PMC)

Mission:

To provide *resources, advocacy, and education* for efficient practice management for optimal patient care*

Vision:

To provide an influential voice for issues affecting the practice of chest medicine*

Charges to the Practice Management Committee:

- Monitor the regulatory environment.
- Lead educational initiatives for physicians, practice administrators, and office staff.
- Facilitate physician leadership development.
- Collaborate with outside professional organizations, Medicare contractors, and regulatory agencies.
- Participate proactively in AMA CPT and RUC processes.
- Develop relationships with Medicare Administrative Contractors through the ACCP CAC.

In addition to the above charges, the Practice Management Committee works closely with two ACCP NetWorks. The Practice Administration NetWork provides expertise in health information technology, coding and reimbursement, and the business of medicine. The Private Practice NetWork assists in identifying physician experts in practice management, as well as helps identify and mentor future leaders in the Practice Management arena. The collaboration between the Practice Management Committee and the two NetWorks greatly increases the overall practice management efforts of the ACCP, and continues to strengthen the Practice Management Department. Because of overlapping issues, the two NetWorks have discussed merging and this merger was approved by the Council of NetWorks and renamed Practice Operations NetWork (PON). Final approval of this merger will be presented to ACCP Board of Regents (BOR) at the CHEST 2009 BOR meeting.

Furthermore, the PMC works in conjunction with the ACCP Government Relations Committee (GRC) on advocacy issues relevant to pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. (I.e. Pulmonary rehab legislation, critical care workforce issues, SGR, etc.)

Practice Management Committee Members 2008-2009

- Michael Nelson, MD, FCCP, *Chair*
- Joseph Austin, MD, FCCP
- Marc Benton, MD, FCCP
- Sam Birnbaum, CMPE

- Neri Cohen, MD, PhD, FCCP
- Robert DeMarco, MD, FCCP
- Richard Hamrick, III, MD, FCCP, *Ex Officio*

- Scott Manaker, MD, PhD, FCCP, *ACCP RUC Advisor, Liaison to BOR*
- Anthony Marinelli, MD, FCCP, *Chair, ACCP CAC*
- Steve Peters, MD, FCCP, *ACCP CPT Advisor*
- Alan Plummer, MD, FCCP

Liaisons:

- Irwin Berlin, MD, FCCP, *Chair Government Relations Committee*
- Donna Knapp, FACMPE, *Chair Practice Administration NetWork*
- Philip Marcus, MD, FCCP, *Chair, Private Practice NetWork*

ACCP Staff:

- Lynne Marcus, *VP, Health Affairs*
- Marla Brichta, *Assistant VP, Health Affairs*
- Priyal Patel, MHA, *Project Coordinator*
- Diane Krier-Morrow, MBA, MPH, CCSP, *Coding and Reimbursement Consultant**

Unofficial Members Who Participated In PMC Call/Activities Throughout The Year:

- Kim French. MHA, CAPP
- Stephen Hoffmann, MD, FCCP, *ATS CPT Advisor*
- Burton Lesnick, MD, FCCP, *ACCP alternate RUC advisor*
- Praveen Mathur, MBBS, FCCP
- Irby Williams

**Diane Krier-Morrow MBA, MPH, CCS-P: continues to staff numerous designated PMC activities. She serves as the ACCP's staff advisor to the American Medical Association's (AMA) CPT and Specialty Society RVS Update (RUC) Committees. ACCP continues to collaborate with the American Thoracic Society (ATS) in a cost-sharing contract for Diane's services*

2008-2009 COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **PMC conference calls:**
 - Monthly conference calls held with active participation by the majority of the members.
- ❖ **Sponsored, with McVey Associates, roughly, 30 pulmonary and critical care coding and reimbursement seminars.**
- ❖ **Coding for Chest Medicine 2009:**
 - Published the 13th Edition, Sold 1026 copies.
- ❖ **Coding for Chest Medicine 2010:**

- Production is underway for our 14th edition.
- Printed version will be available, mid-December and includes a new chapter on Pediatric Pulmonary Coding.
- Pre-print price campaign launched in August, 2009.

❖ **Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel Activities:**

- Staffed by Diane Krier-Morrow, MBA, MPH, ACCP/ATS Consultant, and Steve Peters, MD, FCCP, ACCP CPT Advisor.
- Active participation with the Medical Specialty Group on CPT issues. ACCP will continue taking a proactive role in these collaborative meetings.
- Reviewed issues relevant to ACCP membership at the request of the AMA for the AMA publications, *CPT Changes* and *CPT Assistant*.
- Dr. Peters also responds to all pulmonary questions received by the AMA. Ms. Krier-Morrow responds to coding questions from the membership, in consultation with the coding team, when needed, via phone or email. Monitor relevant National Correct Coding Initiative issues, including Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE).
- ACCP/ATS actively participated in the CPT Literature Workgroup. This workgroup reviews the literature that accompanies CPT code proposals
- Active and successful year for CPT activities related to pulmonary medicine, with 5 of our 6 code proposals approved by the AMA CPT Editorial Board:
 1. Navigational Bronchoscopy was approved as an add-on code.
 2. Bronchoscopic placement of fiducial markers was approved as a stand-alone code including the base bronchoscopy code.
 3. Three codes were approved for measurement of infant PFTs.
 4. CPT 32560 pleurodesis code was revised and two new codes for pleural fibrinolysis (pleurolysis) were approved.
 5. Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) – there was a minor editorial revision by GI.
- Other Codes Pending:
 - Pulmonary rehabilitation- A code proposal was submitted and withdrawn because a panel member reviewer believed there was no physician work involved and it was evident the proposal would be denied. The code proposal will be submitted again after CMS develops policy based on the new law defining pulmonary rehabilitation as a Medicare defined benefit. ACCP has reviewed the CMS draft proposal and has commented regarding many suggested changes. A decision will be published in the final rule in early November.
 - Unattended sleep – Pending: the decision for the two CPT Category III tracking codes to transition into CPT 2011 as Category I codes at the October 2009 meeting. ACCP/ATS have supported this transition from the beginning and AASM and AAN have been opposed.

- Actively working on CPT proposals for Balloon Occlusion, Bronchial Valves, Bronchial Thermoplasty, and Acoustic PFTs for the CPT 2011 cycle.

- ❖ **Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) Activities:**
 - Staffed by Diane Krier-Morrow, Scott Manaker, MD, PhD, FCCP, RUC Advisor and, Burt Lesnick, MD, FCCP, ACCP alternate RUC Advisor.
 - All of the above codes were valued appropriately and supported by members participating in RUC surveys. These surveys were done in collaboration with STS, AAP and the GI societies, where appropriate.
 - The PMC has already begun working on the next Congressionally-mandated Five-Year Review.
 - Actively participate with the Medical Specialty Group on RUC issues.

- ❖ **AMA Physician Practice Information Survey (PPIS):**
 - The ACCP and ATS jointly contributed funding to enable the AMA to obtain a better sample of pulmonary respondents for the PPIS survey.
 - From the survey, Medicare accepted a proposed practice expense rate/hour increase for pulmonary physicians, which increased by \$10.63 from \$44.63 to \$55.26 PE/hr. under the proposed rule.
 - The increase in practice expense will result in a \$52-million annual increase in Medicare payments to pulmonary physicians.
 - Other cognitive specialties had negative results from the survey.
 - ACCP and ATS have submitted comments to CMS that indeed the PPIS is representative of pulmonary medicine and the data should be used to update the PE/hr.
 - Pulmonary disease ranks third of the 42 specialties who participated in the AMA Practice Information Survey. ACCP is concerned that the per hour rate for pulmonary medicine is significantly lower than other internal medicine specialties.

- ❖ **Critical Care Work Group Critical Care Work Group:**
 - The ACCP continues to play an active role in the Critical Care Work Group (CCWG) in addressing reimbursement issues for CPT critical care codes **99291** and **99292**. These specific codes continue to be problematic for the Carrier Medical Directors across the country. Steve Peters, MD, FCCP and Scott Manaker, MD, PhD, FCCP serve as the ACCP representatives to the CCWG.

- ❖ **Subspecialty Advisory Group of Socioeconomic Affairs (SAGSA):**
 - Scott Manaker, MD, PhD, FCCP, represents the ACCP on the American College of Physicians Subspecialty Advisory Group of Socioeconomic Affairs (SAGSA) along with Diane Krier-Morrow, as the ACCP staff representative.

- This is a formal mechanism for subspecialty societies of internal medicine to provide input to the ACP on socioeconomic policy issues.
 - It also offers a forum for specialty societies to collaborate and support each other's initiatives.
 - The annual face-to-face meeting will be November 20, 2009 at the ACP office in Washington DC.
- ❖ **American Medical Association House of Delegates (AMA HOD):**
- Diane Krier-Morrow staffed the interim AMA House of Delegates Chicago meeting in June with D. Robert McCaffree, Master FCCP, ACCP HOD Representative.
- ❖ **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):**
- Prepared relevant comments to proposed and final rules involving the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (CMS-1413-P), and this year commented on pulmonary rehabilitation to the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule, CMS-1414-P.
 - Attended briefings held at the AMA on CMS proposed and final rules. Major emphasis of comments relate to eliminating the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), the proposed deletion of the consultation codes and pulmonary rehabilitation.
 - Signed on to multiple coalition comment letters on various topics when appropriate.
 - Worked on National Coverage Decision (NCD) for CPAP for Obstructive Sleep Apnea. NCD approved and CMS had developed HCPCS temporary codes for unattended sleep codes (**G0398-G0400 have transitioned to a revised 95806 and CPT II codes 0203T, 0204T**).
- ❖ **Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI):**
- Once again a significant initiative for CMS this year.
 - Due to the 2 percent bonus payment for ALL Medicare allowed charges and the additional 2 percent bonus payment for participation in e-prescribing, we encouraged pulmonary practices to participate but believe many pulmonary practices did not participate in the quality reporting because of the significant cost to the practice.
 - In the MPFS proposed rule, it is proposed that the four community-acquired pneumonia measures (#56-#59) will become a Measures Group.
- ❖ **Medicare Contractor Advisory Committee (CAC):**
- Anthony Marinelli, MD, FCCP, Chair of ACCP CAC led quarterly conference calls.

- Annual face-to-face meeting of CAC representatives will be held at CHEST 2009, Monday, November 2, 2009 at 11:30 am. We have invited a Medicare CMD to address the group.
 - ACCP has now identified nearly all of the CAC representatives in the United States.
 - The ultimate goal of PUD CAC is to identify problematic Medicare payment issues at the local level and resolve them before they become national problems.
 - An online tool (CAC Virtual Chapter) was set up by staff to help CAC members communicate with each other on various and pertinent issues.
- ❖ **Practice Management (PM) Roundtables at CHEST 2008:**
- The Practice Management Committee agreed that the PM roundtable discussions held during lunch in the Clinical Resource Center at CHEST meetings were successful and will continue to be held.
 - At CHEST 2009 PM Roundtable discussions will be held during lunch in the Clinical Resource Center on Tuesday, November 3 and Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Possible topics will include: electronic medical records, coding and reimbursement, physician recruitment, using non-physician providers in your practice, ICD-10, and various discussions related to sleep medicine.
- ❖ **One-on-One Practice Management Consultations:**
- Thirty-three ACCP physicians and/or their practice administrators attending CHEST 2008 met individually with ACCP's coding and reimbursement specialist, Diane Krier-Morrow, MBA, MPH, CCS-P to discuss issues specific to their individual practices.
 - Diane will, again, hold one-on-one consultations at CHEST 2008 (*This is not to sell any services, and consultations are by appointment only*).
- ❖ **Business of Medicine Course:**
- A face-to-face meeting to discuss and develop a business of medicine course was held at the ACCP Headquarters on July 21, 2009. The goal was to develop and implement a comprehensive educational opportunity focusing on the practical application of business practice tools to medical practice management.
 - This meeting included Dr. Richard Hamrick, Dr. Edward Diamond, Dr. Mike Nelson, Kim French, Donna Knapp, Jeanie Egmon (representing Kellogg School of Management) and ACCP Staff members, Lynne Marcus, Marla Brichta and Priyal Patel.
 - Outcomes of this meeting included the following:
 - Market research is needed to identify the target market for this course. ACCP staff will look into organizations/companies that perform such services in addition to Kellogg.

- ACCP staff will research the gap in knowledge between practice management and clinical practice in order to apply for CME credit and approval by the ACCP Education Committee.
 - A rough draft of the possible curriculum was designed (the course will be a 1 ½ day course).
 - The team will look into possible grants to fund such a project
 - Once all legwork is completed, the team will present a proposal to the Executive Committee for approval.

- ❖ **Evaluation of Practice Management Products:**
 - As part of the ACCP's Revenue Retreat, held in January 2009, the Practice Management Products were evaluated, focusing primarily on the Coding Book and the Practice Management Webinars.
 - It was determined through this evaluation process that the Coding Book is a possible "cash cow" and the PM Webinars/Podcast have the potential to become a "cash cow."
 - The PMC and staff will continue to evaluate all PM products yearly.

- ❖ **Practice Management Webinars**
 - The Practice Management Committee continued with this educational resource.
 - This year, the PMC held 6 successful Webinars.
 - Next year the PMC has decided to change the format from Webinars to Podcast to allow more flexibility for members to view these important educational resources and plans on including additional topics on the business aspects of medicine (EHR, Health Reform, etc).
 - In addition to the live Webinars, the PM Department sells the recordings. This year the PM Department has bundled the CD-ROMS into two categories: Coding and Reimbursement (6 cd-roms) and Business of Medicine (3 cd-roms).

- ❖ **Spring BOR Meeting 2009:**
 - For the first time, the entire PMC was invited and met face to face at the Spring BoR meeting.
 - This gave the Committee opportunity to interact with BOR members and learn how the Committee fits into the overall structure of college.
 - Members of the PMC found this to be very beneficial and look forward to attending this meeting every year.

- ❖ **CHEST Physician:**
 - The Practice Management Department continues to submit important practice management articles for publication in the monthly ACCP newsletter, "Chest Physician."

- ❖ **Coding and Reimbursement Resource:**
 - The College continues to assist the membership with coding and

reimbursement questions on an on-going basis.

- The Health Affairs Department (the PMC falls under this department) sends out an e-Advocacy (newsletter) update on a regular basis to make ACCP members aware of important and timely issues that effect their practice and their patients
 - In a recent e-Advocacy newsletter the PMC informed members of the latest CMS proposals regarding the elimination of consultations
 - The PMC received a handful of “emotional” responses in regard to this issue from members that were unhappy/unclear on ACCP’s position on this topic
 - The PMC immediately followed up with personal phone calls to these members to further explain ACCP’s position and help answer any and all questions these particular members had on this or any other issue related to practice management
 - Many members that received these timely and personal phone calls expressed much appreciation of the ACCP and particularly the PMC for the extra effort taken to reach out to them to further explain the issue at hand.
- Many of the coding and reimbursement questions from the PM Webinars are available on the Website.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Nelson MD FCCP

**Michael Nelson, MD, FCCP
Chair, Practice Management Committee**