



OSMA News Now

The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association

March 26, 2010

Medicare Physician Payment Cut Update

Last night, the Senate held floor debate on a bill, H.R. 4851, that would extend a number of expiring programs through April. That bill, which had already passed the House, includes a 30-day extension of current Medicare physician payment rates, postponing once again the 21.3 percent cut scheduled to take effect in 2010. It also addressed a number of other programs such as extensions of COBRA benefits and unemployment insurance benefits for Americans who have lost their jobs.

In a replay of the standoff that occurred a month ago, Congress did not approve this emergency extension of benefits on the basis that it should not be considered emergency spending that would be exempt from budgetary offsets. As a result, Congress will adjourn for its two-week spring recess without taking action to stop these programs from expiring. AMA sources indicate that the Senate plans to hold a cloture vote after the recess which, if supported by 60 Senators, will allow a vote to occur on the legislation. That vote could occur as early as April 12.

Since Congress has failed to act, the 21.3 percent Medicare physician payment cut will take effect on April 1. The AMA has contacted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and they will be making an announcement shortly about their plans for handling the situation. Judging from past experience, CMS will not be forced to process claims at the reduced payment rates for 10 business days.

This repeated game of brinkmanship is wreaking havoc with physician practices, and is causing both physicians and patients to lose confidence in the Medicare program. It illustrates in stark terms why medicine can no longer support short-term "fixes" to a formula that did not work even at the time Congress created it.

Oklahoma physicians are urged to contact their Representatives and Senators during their spring break and urge them to fix the sustainable growth rate formula (SGR), the right thing to do for patients and their physicians. Forty-five million Americans count on Medicare, and physicians simply cannot run viable practices in an environment with such extreme financial uncertainty. Many physician leaders knew when Congress created the SGR formula that it would not work, and this point has been proven every year for nearly a decade. Tell your member of Congress to stop playing games with Oklahoma physicians and patients and do what they know must be done: repeal the SGR formula once and for all.

Match Day 2010 A Success

The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Class of 2010 recently celebrated Match Day on March 18th. Match Day has been a long standing day of celebration for graduating medical students across the country when the future physicians are simultaneously notified of their residency placements and specialty choices. The event was attended by the graduating medical student body as well as faculty, mentors, family, and friends of the class.

The Oklahoma State Medical Association was a sponsor for the 2010 Match Day event which was held at Gaillardia in Oklahoma City. According to Match Day Fundraising Chair Serena Anderson, MSIV, sponsors provided over \$13,000 in contributions which allowed the class to raise additional money for a scholarship fund for future medical students.

The majority of the 2010 Class have been active members in the OSMA Medical Student Section. As they begin their transition from medical student to physician, we encourage their continued support and involvement with organized medicine as it allows them to play a unique role in shaping the future of their profession. At this year's event in Oklahoma City, 77 fourth-year medical students, out of the 2010 Class consisting of 144, matched in Oklahoma. A complete listing of the Residency Match Results, as well as pictures of the event, can be found on OSMA's website at www.okmed.org. Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2010!

SAVE THE DATE

2010 OSMA Annual CME Meeting

Mock Trial: Medical Malpractice

Midwest City Reed Conference Center

8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. • April 16, 2010

Registration form on page 2&3

Presented by
The American Board of Legal Medicine & The American College of Legal Medicine
Joint-Sponsored by
The Oklahoma State Medical Association & The Physicians Liability Insurance Company of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians Spring Choice CME Program

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	OAFP Mental Health Update presented by Art Rousseau, MD
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Depression METRIC, Mastering Part IV of the Boards (a Tutorial) presented by Mike Pontious, MD

Midwest City Reed Conference Center • April 16, 2010

Registration form on page 2&3

For the Oklahoma State Medical Association's press release on the Health System Reform bill, please visit the home page of www.okmed.org

2010 Annual Meeting Oklahoma State Medical Association

along with the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians

Reed Conference Center - Midwest City
April 16th - 17th, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM



Date _____

Schedule (please complete the 2nd page) _____

Please put the number attending in the box provided even if there is no charge. List all names on page 2.

**Friday
April 16th**

- 7:30am Legislative Breakfast - No Charge
- 8:30am-12:30pm OSMA CME Mock Trial: Medical Malpractice \$75 members/\$125 non-members
- 12:45pm-1:45pm Luncheon - No Charge
- 1:30pm-1:55pm OAFP Registration
- 2:00pm OSMA Board of Trustees
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OAFP Mental Health Update presented by Art Rousseau, MD
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Depression METRIC, Mastering Part IV of the Boards (a Tutorial) presented by Mike Pontious, MD
- 5:30pm -7:00pm OSMA Inaugural Reception
- 7:00pm - 11:00pm OSMA/OSMAA Inaugural - \$75

For information or to register for OSMA Alliance events, please contact Nancy Bennett at (405) 601-9571 or bennett@okmed.org

**Saturday
April 17th**

- 7:30am Caucus Breakfast Buffet - No charge
- 8:00am-9:00am Oklahoma/Tulsa/Rural Caucus Meetings
- 9:00am-12:00pm OSMA House of Delegates
- 10:30am-11:00am Voting
- 12:15pm - 1:15pm Awards Luncheon \$35
- 1:30pm-2:00pm AMA Delegation Meeting
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OSMA Health Board Meeting

Name(s) of attendees: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE 2nd PAGE

Accreditation Statement: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and the Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO). The OSMA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The OSMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approved for credit toward the PLICO Risk Management premium discount.

CME Planning Committee has no relevant financial relationships to disclose. All Faculty have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

OAFP Accreditation Statement: This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 4.00 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit earned must be reported as Prescribed credit, not as Category 1.

PLEASE COMPLETE

Name(s) of attendees: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Total due to the OSMA \$ _____

CHECK: Please enclose a check, made payable to the OSMA, for the full payment amount. Partial payments are not accepted.

CHECK(S) INCLUDED

CREDIT CARD: Please charge my payment in full to the credit card listed below. Partial payments are not accepted.

VISA MasterCard Discover AMEX

Signature of Authorized Card Holder: _____

Name appearing on card (Please print): _____

Card Number: _____

3 digit security code: _____ Card Expiration Date: _____

PLEASE MAIL TO ADDRESS BELOW:

Oklahoma State Medical Association, 313 NE 50th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105

PLEASE CALL THE OSMA WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

405-601-9571 or 800.522.9452 FAX: 405.601.9575, osma@okmed.org

CANCELLATION POLICY: Attendance cancellation must be made six business days in advance to receive refund.

HOTEL INFORMATION - DEADLINE EXTENDED

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel. Please mention the Oklahoma State Medical Association by **March 30th** to receive the special group rate of \$124.

**Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Road • Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110
Phone: (405) 455-1800 (800) 325-3535**