



OSMA News Now

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

May 12, 2008

Legislative Update **=====**

HB 2458, by Representative Schwartz, was sent to the Governor this week. This piece of legislation contains the Certificate of Merit language from last year's comprehensive lawsuit reform bill. Certificate of Merit would require plaintiffs to obtain an affidavit from an expert when filing a professional malpractice lawsuit. The OSMA is supporting this legislation.

SB 2007 by Senator Nichols, was voted off the Senate floor this week and is now headed to the Governor's desk. SB 2007 is a fact witness piece of legislation that the OSMA is supporting and has been working on.

Please look for a legislative update next week. There are only two weeks left in the 2008 legislative session before sine die.

Governor Henry Vetoes Tort Reform...Again!!!

The Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA), on behalf of its 5000+ member physicians, wishes to express its supreme disappointment in Governor Brad Henry's action in vetoing legislation passed by the Oklahoma State Legislature last week (HB 2488) to require a Certificate of Merit before a personal injury trial lawyer could file a medical liability lawsuit. This issue was promoted and signed into law 5 years ago by Governor Henry before being struck down by the Oklahoma State Supreme Court. We are in disbelief that the Governor would now veto a piece of legislation that he has in the past promoted and signed. What has changed his mind so quickly? This one piece of legislation was written specifically to conform with the Supreme Court's objection to the originally signed legislation and has been upheld as constitutional in several states, including those neighboring Oklahoma. When enacted, the Certificate of Merit Legislation has been shown to markedly decrease the number of frivolous lawsuits that are filed and to increase access to needed medical care and enhance business development in the states in which it has become law. Unfortunately, the Oklahoma House of Representatives failed to override the Governor's veto this afternoon (Monday, 5/12/08). The veto that was sustained by the House means that Oklahomans will continue losing access to needed medical care and will keep us at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states on economic development in Oklahoma because of the number of frivolous lawsuits filed each year in our state.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma County Medical Society will hold on June 18, 2008, from 5:00pm – 5:30pm a reception to meet Dr. Deborah Patterson, Lead Director for TrailBlazer Medical Review, Provider Education Activities, Lead Director for Policy Activities Related to Evaluation and Management, Cardiology, Allergy Immunology, Ambulance Service, Oversight of CMD/Medical Policy Departmental Quality Management and Performance Measurement/Reporting/Management Control. A 2 hour workshop will follow from 5:30pm – 7:30pm which will provide complete information on:

1. How to navigate the Trailblazers website
2. All attending physicians (only physicians) will receive the E&M Guide Book
3. Answer questions and problems physicians face with the transition
4. Other strategic Medicare reimbursement issues physicians are facing

The workshop will include dinner and offer 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for all attending physicians. Cost will be \$25 for OSMA members and \$50 for non-members. Registration will be required. Please watch for more information to come next week in News Now. For further information please contact Sandy Deeba, OSMA CME Manager at (405) 843-9571 or 1-(800)-522-9452 or deeba@osmaonline.org.

AMA Webinar to Help Physicians Decide: Should I Accept an HIT Donation?

With the growing trend of hospitals, health systems and health plans donating health information technology (HIT) to physician practices, it's important for physicians and practice managers and staff to understand details of HIT donation agreements and Stark law and Anti-Kickback Statute requirements. To help in doing that, the AMA is hosting a live, one-hour Web conference from 1 to 2 p.m. CST on May 14, entitled "Financing electronic health record (EHR/EMR) systems: Should your practice accept a donation?" Tune in to learn more about whether or not acceptance of these donations is the right move for your practice, and how to comply with subsidized EHR regulations, recognize regular components of donation agreements, and prepare more effectively for any HIT selection. Featuring presenters Heidi Echols from McDermott Will & Emery and Jay Want, MD, and Jeff Archambeau from Physician Health Partners, the program is open for all physicians and their staff and offers continuing medical education credit upon participation. Registration is \$95 for AMA members (managers whose practices have at least one AMA member will receive the member rate) and \$150 for nonmembers. Register now.

Oklahoma Poison Control Center Announces AHLS "Provider" Course Premier Hazmat Training for the Healthcare Professional

Target Audience

- Physicians • Paramedics/Firefighters • Nurse Practitioners • Physicians Assistants
- Respiratory Therapists • Nurses • Military Personnel • Toxicologists • Industrial Hygienists

This internationally recognized Advanced Hazmat Life Support Provider program is a course developed by the Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology. Verified instructors and toxicologists with the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, will be providing this course July 31-August 1, 2008 at the University of Oklahoma Robert M. Bird Library (1000 Stanton L. Young Blvd/OU Health Sciences Center Campus/Oklahoma City). The AHLS Provider program (a 16 hour, 2-day course), is the first and most comprehensive training program to provide medical professionals the critical skills necessary to effectively manage all aspects of hazmat exposure:

- Demonstrate rapid assessment of toxic terrorism patients
- Recognize toxic syndromes (toxidromes)
- Demonstrate ability to medically manage hazmat patients
- Apply the poisoning treatment paradigm
- Identify and administer specific antidotes

Attendees receive a minimum of 16 hours free CME credits. Qualified medical personnel will receive verification as trained providers. Non-medical personnel, designated by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, are eligible to attend the course; however, non-medical designees and EMT-Basics will not be verified in the course, but will receive a certificate of completion and continuing education credits provided solely by AHLS.

Tuition has generously been paid through a grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Health, available to Oklahoma health care providers and designees only. Courses are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to re-verification and first-time attendees. Space is limited.

Register on the AHLS website: www.ahls.org; in Upcoming Courses, find and click on the Oklahoma City Provider course. You will be asked to 'create a profile' before registering for the course if you haven't already done so. **(Please use the mailing address where you want to receive your course materials, and the email address where you can be contacted throughout the course).** If you have attended our course before and are re-verifying, you should already have an account set up; just follow the prompts to register.

IMPORTANT: Remember your password and user name; you will need them throughout the course!! Amy Williams, 520-626-2305 or awilliams@aemrc.arizona.edu, will be your AHLS contact if you have problems on the website.

After registration is complete, you will receive an email confirmation from AHLS. The Poison Control Center will keep you updated via email, and will send your course materials approximately 2 weeks prior to the course date. After registering, please notify the Poison Center right away if you cannot attend so that all seats may be filled.

We are offering one AHLS course in 2008:

July 31 – August 1

OU Health Sciences Center, Robert M. Bird Library/Room 299

1000 Stanton L. Young Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Time: 9:00am – 5:30pm both days

Coffee & rolls will be provided in the a.m.; lunch will be on your own.

Check your verification card to make sure it is still current!

Preference will be given to re-verifications and first-time AHLS attendees.

For additional information, please visit the AHLS website, or call the Poison Control Center office at 405-271-5062.

Oklahoma Poison Control Center

A program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy located on the OU Health Sciences Center Campus

Children's Physicians Building/940 NE 13th Street/Room 3N3510/

Oklahoma City, OK 73104

(405) 271-5062