

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6:30-7:00 pm Social Hour, 7:00-8:30 Membership Business Presentation

Meetings are at Meadow Springs Country Club

**September 21, 2010**

New Physician Reception

**October 19, 2010**

Detective Bill Dramis from the Kennewick Police Department will be talking to us about prescription medication abuse in our community and how local law enforcement agencies are working with physicians in our community to prevent this problem.

**November 16, 2010**

Topic: Medical Marijuana: Medical and Legal Aspects

Speakers: To be announced .

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**Friday, August 27th, 7:15 pm**

### **Base Ball Night at the Dust Devils Stadium**

You and your family are invited to join us as the  
Dust Devils take on the Boise Hawks.

RSVP to Nicole by August 23rd at 582-2866.

This event is complimentary for members and their families.

**Society Ball– January 22, 2011  
Meadow Springs Country Club**

**27th Annual CME Seminar– Feb. 4/5, 2011  
Three Rivers Convention Center**



The Medical Society is on Face book!  
We are always looking for new opportunities to communicate with our members. We will share upcoming activities and links that you may find interesting. Search for us as Benton Franklin County Medical Society.



## **President Signs Latest Congressional Short-term SGR Patch Update Provided Courtesy of Washington State Medical Association**

Friday, June 26th, President Obama signed into law the "Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010." The measure, already approved by the Senate, was passed by the House June 25th on a 417 to 1 vote. This law reverses the 21% cut to Medicare Part B physician rates that went into effect June 1.

The law establishes a 2.2% update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) payment rates, retroactive from June 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):

- The agency has directed Medicare claims administration contractors to discontinue processing claims at the negative update rates and temporarily to hold all claims for services rendered June 1, 2010 and later, until the new 2.2% update rates are tested and loaded into the Medicare contractors' claims processing systems.

- CMS expects to begin processing claims at the new rates no later than July 1, 2010. Claims for services rendered prior to June 1 will continue to be processed and paid as usual.

- Claims containing June 2010 dates of service which have been paid at the negative update rates will be reprocessed as soon as possible.

- Under current law, Medicare payments to physicians and other providers paid under the MPFS are based upon the lesser of the submitted charge on the claim or the MPFS amount. Claims containing June dates of service that were submitted with charges greater than or equal to the new 2.2% update rates automatically will be reprocessed.

- If you submitted claims containing June dates of service with charges less than the 2.2% update amount, you'll need to contact the local Medicare contractor to request an adjustment. Submitted charges on claims cannot be altered without a request from the physician/provider.

- You should not resubmit claims already submitted to their Medicare contractor.

*This action follows months of political dithering, shrinking time frames, growing deficit concerns, and the ultimate separation of the Medicare SGR issue from a larger bill to extend unemployment benefits, Medicaid funding to states and other provisions.*

### **CMS TO REVIEW PECOS ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, July 1, 2010**

Medicare Working with Ordering and Referring Providers and Suppliers to Streamline Enrollment Process

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with providers to address concerns about enrollment in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to receive the health care services and items they need. PECOS is the electronic system used to enroll physicians and eligible professionals into the Medicare program.

As part of those efforts, CMS will, for the time being, not implement changes that would automatically reject claims based on orders, certifications, and referrals made by providers that have not yet had their applications approved by July 6, 2010. While more than 800,000 physicians and other health professionals have enrolled and have approved applications in the PECOS system, some providers have encountered problems. CMS is continuing to update and streamline the process, and more providers have been enrolled in the past few days.

CMS issued an interim final regulation on May 5, 2010 implementing provisions of the Affordable Care Act that permit only a Medicare enrolled physician or eligible professional to certify or order home health services, durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS), and certain items and services under Medicare Part B. The new law applies to orders, referrals and certifications made on or after July 1. The comment period for the regulation closes on July 6, after which the comments will be reviewed and considered before a final regulation is issued.

The Affordable Care Act provisions and the regulation were designed as steps to prevent fraud in Medicare by ensuring that only eligible and identifiable providers and suppliers can order and refer covered items and services to Medicare beneficiaries.

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# Applications for Membership

## Second Notice:

### Nadia Toshani MD

#### Board Certified Internal Medicine

**Medical School:** Al Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya (1989)

**Internship:** Drexel University

**Residency:** Drexel University

**Practice:** 320 W. 10th Ave., Suite 200, Kennewick Phone: 586-5113 Fax: 586-5143

## Welcome New Members!!

### Marianne Freedman MD

#### Board Certified Pediatrics

**Medical School:** University of Texas at Houston (1986)

**Internship:** University of New Mexico

**Residency:** University of New Mexico

**Practice:** 7211 Deschutes Ave., Suite G, Kennewick Phone: 737-1860, Fax: 737-1862

### Michael Freedman MD

#### Board Certified Neurology

**Medical School:** Baylor (1981)

**Internship:** Baylor Affiliated

**Residency:** Baylor Affiliated

**Practice:** 320 W. 10th Ave., Ste. 100, Kennewick Phone: 585-5301, Fax: 585-5302

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Many physicians and other providers and suppliers have continued to make good faith efforts to comply with the requirements of the law and regulation. These efforts will be a significant factor in determining the procedures and processes that will be incorporated in the final rule.

Additionally, though CMS is taking a more deliberative approach to using the PECOS enrollment system, the agency will employ a contingency plan to meet the ACA requirement that written orders and certifications are only issued by eligible professionals effective July 1.

While the regulation will be effective July 6, 2010, CMS will not implement automatic rejections of claims submitted by providers that have attempted to enroll in PECOS. However, until the automatic rejections are operational, providers should not see any change in the processing of submitted claims, they will continue to be reviewed and paid as they have historically been reviewed and paid.

CMS will continue to send informational notices to providers reminding them of the need to submit or update their enrollment and will work with the provider community to provide guidance on enrollment and will process all applications expeditiously.

Benton Franklin County Medical Society  
PO Box 5998  
Kennewick, WA 99336

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**BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

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Phone: 582-2866  
Fax: 582-3318  
Email: [bfmedsoc@charterinternet.com](mailto:bfmedsoc@charterinternet.com)  
[www.bentonfranklincms.com](http://www.bentonfranklincms.com)

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**2010 Board of Directors**

Stan Ling MD	President
Vacant	Vice-President
Donald Dicken MD	Secretary-Treasurer
Heather Phipps, DO	Past President
Richard Long, MD	Past President

**Trustees**

David Fischer, MD, John Henriques, MD  
Larry Jecha, MD, MPH  
Sheila Rege, MD           AMA Delegate

*The objectives of the Benton Franklin County Medical Society are to promote the art, science and practice of medicine and the practitioners who pursue these goals; to promote the care and well being of the patients of Benton and Franklin Counties; to protect and improve the health of the public; to provide medical education and to provide leadership for the members of the Society.*

*Please contact Nicole Austin with any questions, comments or information you would like added to the Newsletter.*