

October 2009



BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Society Pages

Health Care Reform Update

Contributed by Sheila Rege MD, AMA Delegate

From the AMA Corner as of Sept. 26, 2009:

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee held three days of markup this week on the health system reform proposal drafted by Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-Mont.). As reported previously, the legislation differs significantly from the bill under consideration in the House. Notably, the legislation includes a one-year patch to prevent the scheduled 21 percent cut in Medicare physician payments in 2010, instead of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) repeal that has been proposed in the House. In addition, the Senate Finance Committee proposal would: (1) mandate physician participation in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Physician Quality Reporting Initiative, instituting negative payment adjustments for non-reporting physicians in 2012; and (2) create an Independent Medicare Commission to rein in program spending, potentially fast-tracking provider payment cuts as early as 2015. The chairman's mark considered by the committee this week also included an additional and significant proposal that would affect Medicare's physician payment system. Under a provision originally authored by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), a new system of modifiers would be developed to redistribute spending among physicians and regions according to the quality of care provided relative to costs. The AMA has expressed strong concerns to all of these proposals.

During three days of markup, several attempts to include medical liability reforms in the legislation were ruled out of order by Chairman Baucus because the issue falls outside the committee's jurisdiction. An amendment offered by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) to replace the one-year positive Medicare physician payment update with a two-year freeze was defeated. Another amendment offered by Sen. Cornyn that would require all members of Congress to enroll in Medicaid also failed.

The committee is scheduled to resume its deliberations on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Dr. Luzcel Tuazon for her service as Secretary/Treasurer for the last year. She recently relocated to the mid-west. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her well in her new adventure. I have fielded many calls from her patients and helped place them with new physicians. If you know of any such patients needing assistance, please direct them to the medical society office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6:30-7:00 pm, Social Hour

7:00-8:30 Membership Business and
Presentation

October 20, 2009

Swine Flu Update

Larry Jecha, MD, MPH

Public Health Officer, Benton Franklin County
Health Department

RSVP by October 15

November 17, 2009

Mick Oreskovich MD, Medical Director/CEO

Washington Physicians Health Program

RSVP by November 12

All Meetings Held at Meadow Springs

Country Club, Richland



The Society Ball

(formerly known as the Noel Ball)

*Will be held January 23, 2010 at
Meadow Springs Country Club*

SAVE THE DATE!

Benton Franklin County Medical Society 26th Annual
CME Seminar

February 19-20, 2010

Diabetes Related Complications

Depression in Adolescents

Pediatric Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Breast Cancer Screening

Vitamin D Deficiency

Treatment Options for Prostate Cancer

Treatment for Heart Failure

Evidence Based Screening Measures

Management of Hypertension

Treatment of Dizziness in Primary Care

Treatment of Allergic Rhinitis

Gastroenterology Update

Application for Membership

Second Notice:

If any member has information as to why any of the following applicants should not be a member of this Society, please furnish this information to the Board of Trustees.

Chet Hunter DO

Board Certified Radiology

Medical School: Kirksville College of Osteopathic
Medicine (2003)

Internship: Henry County Bi-County Hospital

Residency: Henry County Bi-County Hospital

Recommended by: Saravanan Kasthuri MD and
Steven Weighall MD

Ghassan Nemri MD

Board Certified Anesthesia/Pain Mgmt.

Medical School: Minsk Medical Institute (1979)

Internship: St. Michaels Medical Center, Newark, NJ

Residency: Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL

Recommended by: Bing Manawadu MD and H. Gronski MD

Notification of Proposed By-Laws Amendments

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the following changes to the Benton Franklin County Medical Society by-laws at the September 1, 2009 meeting. This will serve as notification to the membership of the proposed by-laws amendments. These amendments will be voted on at the October General Membership Meeting. (Underlining signifies new language.)

Article III, Section 6. Medical Student, Intern and Resident Members

A medical student, intern, resident or other physician who is in training in an institution which is appropriately qualified in the judgment of the Society may be elected to this category of membership. Such members shall have the rights and benefits of the Society, except the right to vote and hold office. Such members shall pay dues and assessments as determined by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII, Section 2(A)(4). Meetings, Board of Trustees.

The President of the Society may request at any time a special vote of the Board of Trustees. A vote may be conducted by email or by phone and may be coordinated by the President or appointed agent.

A copy of the by-laws will be posted on the website if you wish to view them in their entirety.

Columbia Basin Primary Update

14 AMA Category 1 Credits

November 12–13, Moses Lake, WA

For more information, visit the medical society website at

bentonfranklincms.com

Dues invoices will be sent out later this month!! As a reminder, you will be paying your county dues directly to us, NOT to the WSMA. I am hopeful that we will be able to accept credit card payments for dues this year...stay tuned for further information!!

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PD
KENNEWICK, WA
PERMIT NO. 75

Return Service Requested

**BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 5998
711 S. Auburn Street, Suite F
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: 582-2866
Fax: 582-3318
Email: bfmedsoc@charterinternet.com
www.bentonfranklincms.com

2009 Board of Directors

John Droesch, MD	President
Stanley Ling, MD	Vice-President
Vacant	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.