

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

October 18th: Q&A Session with Dr. Anjan Sen regarding the MQAC Rules for the Management of Chronic Non-Cancer Pain

November 15th: Legislative Event/Annual Meeting

(Fall General Membership Meetings to be held at Meadow Springs Country Club)

Mark your calendars for next year's CME seminar– February 24/25, 2012.

Please visit the website at www.bentonfranklincms.com for a complete listing of CME activities in our area.

Thank you to everyone who attended the September General Membership Meeting welcoming our new physicians to the area. It was an excellent turnout and it was great to see so many new faces.

James McClellan Lecture "Humanity in Clinical Care"

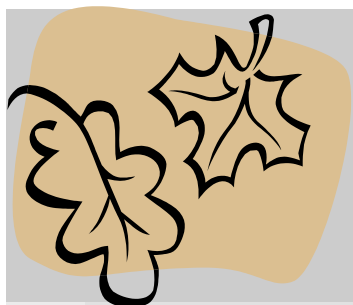
A psychoanalytic view of prejudice, it's many faces: why is prejudice so problematic in a physician's mind?

Thank you to the Walla Walla County Medical Society for extending this invitation to our members:

Friday, October 28, 12:15 pm– Marcus Whitman Hotel, Complimentary Lunch, Wine by donation

Presented by Salman Akhtar MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College and Director of Psychiatric Outpatient Services, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

More information is available on our website, www.bentonfranklincms.com or call Nicole at 582-2866.



FREE CME Credit to Meet Requirements in New Opioid Guidelines

In 2010, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill in response to concerns about the consequences and risks of prescribing opioids for chronic, non-cancer pain. In response, five boards and commissions adopted regulations related to pain management.

To meet the 4 hour CME provision in these rules, the Medical Quality Assurance Commission in consultation with the Department of Health and Agency Medical Directors' Group (AMDG) offer a free Category 1 CME package available online and on-demand. Users may print certificates from their own computer at no charge. This CME package is applicable to the licenses of all five boards and commissions named in this legislation.

Go to the AMDG website at: www.agencymeddirectors.wa.gov

On the right side of the website you'll see an orange box "Opioid Dosing-Quick Links." Just beneath that you'll see the link for the free CME. There are several other useful tools on this website as well related to the new guidelines.

Final Rule on the 2012 Medicare E-Prescribing Penalty Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule regulation for the 2012 Medicare e-prescribing penalty program on August 31, 2011. Physicians were required to have issued and reported at least 10 electronic prescriptions by June 30, 2011 in order to avoid being penalized. The penalty is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2012. For physicians who fail to comply or do not **file an exemption by November 1, 2011** there will be a 1 percent payment reduction based on the 2012 Medicare fee schedule amounts during the year.

Hardship categories for eligible physicians to avoid the 2012 Medicare-prescribing penalty are listed below:

- Physician practice is located in a rural area without high speed internet access
- Physician practice is located in an area without sufficient available pharmacies for e-prescribing (CMS added more examples including natural disaster caused disruption of e-prescribing between physician offices and pharmacies)
- Physician is registered to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and has adopted certified EHR technology by October 1, 2011, and prior to the time the physician requests an exemption
- Inability to electronically prescribe due to local, State or Federal law or regulation (CMS clarifies that physicians who mainly prescribe narcotics but due to certain limitations cannot submit these prescriptions electronically can apply for this exemption category).
- Limited prescribing activity (physicians who do not prescribe on a regular basis).
- Insufficient opportunities to report the e-prescribing measure due to limitations of the measurer's denominator (physicians who do not e-prescribe on the service date can apply for this exemption).

Physicians are able to apply for more than one exemption category if a combination of categories apply to their circumstance. Instructions on how to access the web tool will be available on the CME website at <http://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/> or click on this link: [Web-based tool](#)

Although the deadline to apply for an exemption is November 1, 2011, you are encouraged not to wait until the last minute to apply.

Applications for Membership

First Notice:

Jennifer Balde MD

Board Certified Internal Medicine , Practices Geriatrics also
Medical School: Univ. of the E. Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (2002)
Internship: NY Metropolitan Hospital Center
Residency: NY Metropolitan Hospital Center
Practice: 4403 W. Court St., Ste. B, Pasco
Phone: 545-6220 Fax: 545-0894

Uma Dhanabalan MD

Board Certified Occupational Medicine Board Eligible
Family Medicine
Medical School: Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry NJ (1995)
Internship: Medical University of SC
Residency: Medical University of SC
Practice: 2505 Garlick Blvd. Richland
Phone: 373-8200

Second Notice:

Kelly Nelson DO

Board Certified Family Medicine
Medical School: Des Moines University (2005)
Internship: Doctors Hospital
Residency: Doctors Hospital
Practice: 9605 Sandifur Pkwy., Pasco
Phone: 942-3170 Fax: 543-9795

They've Moved!

Richard Lorenzo DO (OB/GYN) has moved to 780 Swift Blvd. Ste. 200 in Richland. His new phone number is 619-7131 and the new fax is 392-6699.

Obioma Onuorah MD, FACP (Nephrology, IM) has moved to 521 N. Young St. in Kennewick. His new phone number is 585-5222.

Puneet Tandon MD (Nephrology) has moved to Kadlec Clinic Nephrology at 510 N. Colorado St. Ste. A in Kennewick. His phone number is 942-3627

Welcome New Members!

Fareed Arif MD

Board Certified Nephrology
Medical School: King Edward Medical College (1996)
Internship: St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital
Residency: St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital
Practice: 510 N. Colorado St. Ste. A, Kennewick
Phone: 942-3627 x7430

Debbierey Bongar MD

Board Certified Internal Medicine
Medical School: University of the Philippines (2003)
Internship: St. Luke's Roosevelt
Residency: St. Luke's Roosevelt
Practice: 9605 Sandifur Parkway, Pasco
Phone: 942-3170

Arnulfo Deray MD

Board Certified IM, Geriatrics
Medical School: University of Santo Tomas (1998)
Internship: Carnitas Carney
Residency: Carnitas Carney
Practice: 1050 Gilmore St. Ste. C, Richland
Phone: 942-3627

Evelyn Rubin MD

Board Certified Internal Medicine
Medical School: University of the Philippines (2003)
Internship: Akron General Medical Center
Residency: Akron General Medical Center
Practice: 3950 Keene Road, W. Richland
Phone: 942-3627 Fax: 942-3181

Deepa Upadhyaya MD

Cardiology
Medical School: NE Ohio Univ. College of Medicine (2004)
Internship: Tufts University/Baystate Medical Center
Residency: Case Western Reserve University
Practice: 320 W. 10th Ave. Ste. 200, Kennewick
Phone: 586-5113 Fax: 586-5143

Julie Vails MD

Board Certified Family Practice
Medical School: UCSF (1999)
Internship: UC Davis
Residency: UC Davis
Practice: KRMC, 888 Swift Blvd., Richland
Phone: 942-2345