



500 S. University Ave., Suite 311  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Telephone: 501.687.0039 | Fax: 501.663.1737  
Email: Carolyn@Pulaskicms.org  
Website: www.Pulaskicms.org

August | 2008

PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

# NEWS

When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare, think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

## 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Society

**Kemp Skokos, MD**  
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## CRC to Sponsor August 20 "Managers Only" Luncheon Meeting. Attorney Brian Looney, to Address Stark Law Issues



The PCMS Carrier Relations Committee met in May 2008 to explore ideas for upcoming educational presentations for clinic administrators and managers. To further this process, a summer luncheon and brainstorming session for clinic administrators and managers is scheduled for 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, August 20 in the Doctors Building Conference Room (8th floor). In addition, attorney Brian Looney of the Kutak-Rock Law Firm will address questions regarding Stark Law issues that have arisen in prior meetings. **Complimentary box lunches will be provided by PCMS. Please RSVP (attending only) to 687-0039.**

## Directory Correction:

The clinic address for Sunder Krishnan, MD is:  
Spine Care of Arkansas, PLLC,  
14918 Cantrell Road,  
Little Rock, AR 72223.

*Articles represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the PCMS or the institution with which the author is affiliated. Advertisements do not imply sponsorship by or endorsement of PCMS.*

## Social Sizzles

The annual Pulaski County Medical Society Summer Social was held at Brave New Restaurant on June 12, 2008. A cool breeze off the river greeted physicians and guests attended the growing annual affair, which featured acoustic jazz by Rodney Block.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served as members and guests enjoyed the river view from the balcony. The event was designed to introduce new physicians to the medical community and provide an informal social setting for active and emeritus members to visit with colleagues and friends.

Guest list included PCMS President, Kemp Skokos, MD and Tawnya; vice president, Carl Covey, MD and Paula; secretary, Chad Rodgers, MD; treasurer, Ashley Deed, MD and David Lewis; imm. past president, Jim Ingram, MD; Lee Archer, MD and Nancy; David Bourne, MD and Paula Anderson, MD; Michael Cope, MD and Ms. Cope; Frank Lorusso, MD and Desiree; Gerry Glasco, MD and Donnell Meadors; Katherine Baltz, MD and Tracy Baltz, MD; Nick Paslisdis, MD and Sara; Wm. Harrison, MD and Sandy; Amail Chudy, MD and Ann; W. E. Atkinson, MD and Ms. Atkinson; Allen McKnight, MD; John Stotts, MD and Carolyn; Jon Newsum, MD and Julie Newsum; Wm. Hayden, MD and Joyce.

## New 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payment Rates Effective for Dates of Service July 1, 2008 through December 30, 2008

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 was enacted on July 15, 2008. As a result, the mid-year 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rate of -10.6 percent has been replaced with a 0.5 percent update, retroactive to July 1, 2008.

Physicians, non-physician practitioners and other providers of services paid under the MPFS should begin to receive payment at the 0.5 % update rates in approximately 10 business days, or less. Medicare contractors are currently working to update their payment system with the new rates.

In the meantime, to avoid a disruption to the payment of claims for physicians, non-physician practitioners and other providers of services

paid under the MPFS, Medicare contractors will continue to process the claims that have been on hold on a rolling basis (first in/first out) for payment at the -10.6% update level. After your local contractor begins to pay claims at the new 0.5% rate, to the extent possible, the contractor will begin to automatically reprocess any claims paid at the lower rates.

Under the Medicare statute, Medicare pays the lower of submitted charges or the Medicare fee schedule amount. Claims with dates of service July 1 and later billed with a submitted charge at least at the level of the January 1 – June 30, 2008, fee schedule amount will be automatically reprocessed. Any lesser amount will require providers to contact their local contractor for direction on obtaining adjustments. Non-participating physicians who submitted unassigned claims at the reduced nonparticipation amount also will need to request an adjustment.

Contractor websites are being updated with the new rates and these should be available shortly.

Be aware that any published MLN Matters articles affected by the new law will be revised or rescinded as appropriate.

Finally, be on the alert for more information about other legislative provisions which may affect you.

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## 2008 Calendar of Meetings and Events

- August 6 Medical Student Luncheon ,  
Wed., Aug 6, 12 noon – 1:00p.m.  
G131, UAMS Ed Bldg.
- August 19 PCMS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Doctors Bldg. Conference Room
- August 20 Clinic Manager's Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.  
Doctors Bldg, Conference Room
- September 16 PCMS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Doctors Bldg. Conference Room
- October 21 PCMS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Doctors Bldg. Conference Room
- November 6 Annual Membership Meeting & Auction,  
Crowne Plaza  
(formerly Holiday Inn Select, 201 S. Shackleford Rd.)  
Benefit for Arkansas Healthcare Access Foundation
- December 16 PCMS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Doctors Bldg. Conference Room



## Pharmacy Additions for 2008 PCMS Membership Directory

The following pharmacy additions to the 2008 PCMS Membership Directory are provided for your convenience. Please cut and paste on pg. 103 of your directory.

Fred's	Cabot	501-843-5814
Fresco	Baseline, LR	501-562-6657
Kroger	Confederate, LR	501-225-6006
Walgreens	Hwy. 10, LR	501-868-6324
Walgreens	Benton	501-860-7352
Walgreens	Bryant	501-847-7420
Walgreens	Cantrell & Miss, LR	501-221-1601
Wal-Mart	Bryant	501-847-4615
Wal-Mart	1900 Cantrell, LR	501-868-9854

## Congress Overrides Presidential Veto to Stop Medicare Physician Payment Cuts

On July 15, 2008 Congress voted overwhelmingly to override President Bush's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331), allowing the bill to become law and protecting access to care for seniors, the disabled and military families. The AMA lauds the outcome and thanks the bipartisan majority in Congress that voted to put patients first.

"It has been a long and winding road, but today we celebrate that Congress heard the voices of millions of patients and physicians and voted to override President Bush's veto and protect the health of America," AMA President Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD, said.

Following the president's veto earlier in the day, the U.S. House of Representatives reached a required two-thirds majority to override it with a 383-41 vote, and the Senate followed suit by a 70-26 margin. The veto and subsequent overrides come on the heels of last week's Senate vote in favor of H.R. 6331 by a veto-proof majority of 69-30. The U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 6331 June 24 by an overwhelming, veto-proof majority of 355-59.

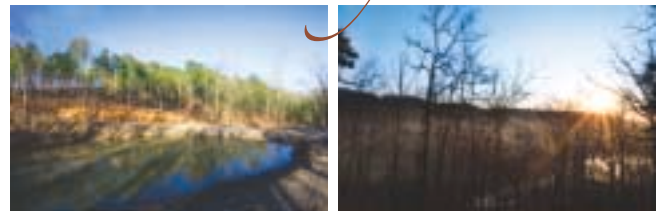
The bill replaces the 10.6 percent payment cut that went into effect on July 1 with a 0.5 percent update extension through Dec. 31, and it provides an additional 1.1 percent update for 2009. The 18-month reprieve this bill provides allows Congress time to work with physicians on developing a long-term solution to a payment system that all agree is fatally flawed.

"This congressional debate underscores the need for lawmakers to permanently replace the flawed Medicare physician

payment formula so physicians can focus on the real work at hand: taking care of patients," Dr. Nielsen said.

The legislation specifies that the 0.5 percent payment update for the remainder of 2008 becomes effective July 1, so the 10.6 percent cut that was to be reflected in claims paid this week will be cancelled. However, payments made in the immediate future for services provided on or after July 1 will include the cut.

## The Estates at McHenry Creek



Gated 5-7 Acre Lots

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