

NEWS & NOTES
FROM NPO



NORTHERN
PHYSICIANS
ORGANIZATION

April

7, 2015

We've goat news for you!

OH, HAY! We've GOAT news!



NO KIDDING!

CHRISTINE LEE

of Hand Surgery of Northern Michigan
is the winner of the last Movie Trivia Question!
Congratulations to Christine, who will be receiving a \$50 downtown gift certificate
for either Traverse City, Petoskey, or Manistee!

Only Players can be Winners! You *could* be next...



Wouldn't you feel baaad missing a chance to win?

Again, the current Trivia Question is relative to the film "Population Management Using a Registry", and this time involves Dr. Vollbrecht's part in the trilogy, which begins at 17:42 into the film.

[Click here to watch](#)

After watching Dr. Vollbrecht's performance, please send your answer to this question:

Dr. Vollbrecht uses the Registry for Population Management. "Why does she think proper coding is important for Diabetes with Complications?"

to Bryanna at bpataky@npoinc.org before April 21st

As always, correct answers received before the deadline will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 downtown gift certificate for either Traverse City, Manistee, or Petoskey! It is just so easy to win - but you got to play!



Dr. Sneed's Blog

SGR FORMULA

This week's blog was to be related to the sources for the cost of healthcare in the United States. Do the costs come from physician fees, testing, pharmaceuticals, hospital stays, facility surgical fees, nursing homes, physical therapy or other related services?

I will come back to that issue but I wanted to share some thoughts about the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. As many of you are aware, Medicare is technically reducing reimbursement rates for physician services rendered after March 31 by 21%. This cut is triggered by the SGR formula. On March 26, the House of Representatives passed an SGR repeal bill on a bipartisan 392-37 vote. Unfortunately, the Senate left for Spring Recess before voting but they are expected to vote upon their return April 13. The repeal bill raises reimbursement rates .5% in the last half of 2015 and annually through 2019 as payment methods switch from fee for service to fee for value programs. In a letter sent to Congress, over 750 physician membership organizations across the country urged repeal of the SGR. The repeal bill is not without some controversy in that some feel that a two year extension of the CHIP program is not sufficient and many fiscal conservatives have issues with the fact that this repeal bill does not save money or achieve budget neutrality. Others say that the 20 "fixes" in the last decade is also not saving money and the long term health improvements, health and productivity savings through the fee for value programs will more than pay for this. As it is April 2 as I write this, our fees have been cut by 21%. However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) cannot pay clean electronic claims any sooner than 14 calendar days after receipt (29 days for hard copy claims). Senate passage of the Repeal Bill (MACRA) and the president's signature by April 14 would allow CMS to retroactively cancel the 21% rate reduction and pay all claims for services performed after March 31 at pre-April levels.

So what should physicians do during this time of limbo? Here's what you should NOT do: voluntarily mark down your Medicare claims by 21% (officially, 21.2%) for the work you do on and after April 1, with the hopes of getting it back when the Senate approves the SGR repeal bill. If you do this, CMS is obliged to pay the lesser of the submitted charge or the Medicare approved rate. You can approach your billing one of two ways. Continue submitting Medicare claims at the old rates and hope the Senate passes the repeal bill by April 14. If the new bill does not pass, CMS will begin to pay claims for prior April services at rates reflecting the 21% reduction. If the Senate were to pass the repeal bill at a later date,

CMS would reprocess the shrunken claims at the old rates. In this scenario, your cash flow would be disrupted. The other option is to hold on to Medicare claims for services rendered beginning April 1 and wait for final passage of the repeal bill - or a temporary delay of the 21% cut - before submitting them. This approach spares physicians the hassle of having their claims reprocessed if the cut goes into effect for a few days or weeks because the Senate acted after the April 14 deadline. However, your Medicare cash flow gets disrupted for 2 weeks or more. This increase in Medicare accounts receivable may adversely affect your practice and create a need for a line of credit or other financing. Either way, it is good for us to be prepared with an understanding of what potentially will be our new world once the SGR issue is decided. Thanks for reading and Happy Spring.



Dr. Sneed
President, Northern Michigan Health Network
NPO Board Member



M-CEITA CALL Reminder

The first of the 2015 M-CEITA Calls Series provided by NPO in partnership with Michigan Center for Effective Technology Adoption (M-CEITA), is Thursday, April 9th at noon. This is a one hour session, offering you the opportunity to ask M-CEITA whatever Meaningful Use questions you have. M-CEITA will answer the question, or research and follow-up as necessary. If you can't make the call, you can email your question to NPO in advance (bpataky@npoinc.org) and it will be included in the session. *These call will be via Go To Meeting, as we have had requests for projections.

The first call will be on Thursday, April 9th at noon. All others will be on the first Wednesday of each month at noon.

Thursday 4/9/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 5/6/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 6/3/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 7/1/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 8/5/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 9/2/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 10/7/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 11/4/15 at 12:00 pm
Wednesday 12/2/15 at 12:00 pm

* We will be scheduling a second call for October, November, and December.

Again, the first call is Thursday April 9th at noon -

Dial-in information is:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/490727629>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Long distance): +1 (646) 749-3131

Access Code: 490-727-629

More phone numbers:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/490727629/numbersdisplay.html>

We look forward to your questions!



Member Connections

Medical Assistant needed: Small, friendly, growing Family Medicine office looking for Medical Assistant. Must be good with computers and willing to help in all areas of the practice. Starting at 20-24 hrs/wk, developing to 35-40 later in the year. If you enjoy interacting with patients, are creative in getting around obstacles, love working with coworkers on; increasing quality and efficiency of care and patient satisfaction, then Send resume to YourHealth Family Medicine 6176 US Hwy 31S, Grawn, MI 49637.

For more information email: yourhealth@yourhealthmed.com

The Walk-In Clinic is currently seeking an energetic and enthusiastic part-time Physician Assistant. Must have exceptional bedside manner and clinical skills. Qualified candidates will have 1-3 years experience as a PA with demonstration of quality care in an urgent care and/or family practice. Experience using an EHR (eClinicalworks preferred) and MS office expected. Formal Physician Assistant training from an accredited program with NCCPA certification. Please send letter of interest and CV to resumesfortwicorpih@gmail.com.

Mid-level provider (PA or NP) wanted for small Family Practice office. Part-time, 24 hours/week. 2 days/week of patient care including acute visits and Medicare Annual Wellness visits plus 1 day/week Pay for Performance Program and Patient Centered Medical Home Initiatives. eClinical Works EMR experience preferred but will train the right person. Our patients appreciate quality care provided in a small office. Benefits include paid vacation, holidays and CME allowance as well as 401K IRA. Please see our website for practice information cherrybendfamilycare.com. Email letter of interest and resume to madiganl@msu.edu or fax to 231.929.7934.

PART TIME MEDICAL ASSISTANT JOB OPPORTUNITY Northern Pines Health Center, P.C. is currently seeking a part-time Medical Office Assistant. Familiarity with medical terminology preferred. Excellent computer skills are a must. Qualified candidates will possess strong organizational and communication skills.

Qualified applicants should email their resume to:

keishasexton@northernpineshealthcenter.com

(Visit Our Website: www.northernpineshealthcenter.com)

Medical Assistant Back with some Front Office Duties as well.

Northshore Rehab PLLC

PART TIME (2-4 days per week) medical office position available for an individual who is able to multi-task between the front office clerical duties as well as back office clinical duties.

Responsibilities to include the following: rooming patients, taking vitals, entering pertinent patient medical history/medications into the EMR. Check patients in/out, scanning documents into the EMR, answering the phones, making appointments. This position requires knowledge of the medical office and medical terminology. Previous medical office experience a plus.

Please send resume to jobapplicant901@gmail.com or fax to 231-947-5094

Bay View Obstetrics & Gynecology -

Position available for a Medical Assistant:

Medical Assistant/Nurse

30-40 hours per week, full time benefits, working with a physician in 5 physician OB/GYN practice.

Please submit resume' and cover letter to:

Julie Hopkins, Practice Manager

Bay View Obstetrics & Gynecology, P.C.

560 West Mitchell St., Suite 210

Petoskey, MI. 49770

Office Phone: 231-487-2340

Fax: 231-487-2115

Email: jhopkins@bayviewob.com

Internal Medicine of Northern Michigan is looking for full and part time MAs to join our clinical team! CMA, RMA or LPN required, EMR experience preferred.

Also seeking part time Medical Technologist. Requires ASCP or equivalent certification, completion of an accredited MT/MLT program and 1-3 years clinical laboratory experience. Must have excellent communication, problem solving and phlebotomy skills. Professional environment, competitive salary, M-F, no weekends or holidays.

Inquiries can be sent to rfarrell@imnm.net.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY - Family Physician Office expanding medical team. [Click here for info.](#)

~~~~~

*We are very happy to include postings in our news blasts - for career opportunities, office space, equipment for sale, etc. Please email [lsalvatore@npoinc.org](mailto:lsalvatore@npoinc.org) with your ad. We also ask that you inform us as soon as it is no longer current. Thanks!*

## **Quick Links...**

[NPO Website](#)

[NMHN Website](#)

[NPO CALENDAR](#)





### **Seriously unimportant goat stuff.**

Goats were the first animals domesticated by man somewhere around 7,000 - 10,000 B.C.E. The ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Cephrares was buried with more than 2,000 goats.

There are over 200 recognized breeds of goats.

Goats live 8 - 12 years.

A group of goats has multiple acceptable names, including herd, trip, and tribe.

An adult male goat is called a buck. An adult female goat is called a doe. Immature goats of either sex are called kids.

Both male and female goats can have horns and beards.

And the real reason why we should love goats - it is believed that goats actually discovered coffee! Ancient goat herders noticed that their goats became more energetic after eating the beans of the then unknown coffee plant. Subsequent investigation into these beans led to modern day coffee as a staple beverage.

We should be grateful!

***"Bring me a bowl of coffee before I turn into a goat." - Johann Sebastian Bach***

[lsalvatore@npoinc.org](mailto:lsalvatore@npoinc.org)

300 E. Front Et.

Suite 240, Traverse City, MI 49684