



## NEWS & NOTES FROM NPO



NORTHERN  
PHYSICIANS  
ORGANIZATION



June 23, 2016 National Pink Flamingo Day. Really.



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From the IT Department

### The EHR CONUNDRUM

Tatiana Melnik, an HIT/privacy lawyer, has put together some points for practices and providers to think through as they are making decisions on IT hosting, interoperability, and data aggregation with third parties (whether it is someone hosting your EMR or the EMR vendor). She also wrote [this article](#) on EMRs and data ownership.

Some points she encouraged practices and physicians to be cognizant of are:

\* Data Sharing and Reimbursement - With the on-going push to transition practices to value based reimbursement, the ability of practices to share data is taking on new importance. As the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Alternative Payment Models (APM) go into effect over the next several years,

practices will be compensated, in part, on their ability to exchange data with other providers. Practices must carefully evaluate the costs involved in facilitating the required data exchange including initial costs and on-going transaction and maintenance costs as well as the costs to the providers who are receiving the referrals. Specifically, practices should evaluate the extent to which EHR systems and the data sharing costs effectively limit a provider's referral network and patient choice.

\* Data Use - Practices should also ask questions about who has access to the practices' EHR data and how that data is used. Many vendors will reserve the right to engage in "data aggregation", "de-identify" data, and develop other analytics and related business uses. But, do you know what this means? Can your practice obtain periodic reports providing more information on how this data is actually used? Is the practice obtaining a benefit from these additional uses and if not, can the practice opt-out? Patients entrust their providers with sensitive information and, regardless of the circumstances, should data be used improperly or there be a data breach, patients will hold the provider responsible. Consider the Target data breach for example; did you know that the Target breach was actually caused by Target's HVAC vendor? If you did, do you know the name of that vendor?

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail ([eworthington@npoinc.org](mailto:eworthington@npoinc.org)) or by phone (231-421-8505).

### TRAVERSE CITY PAHCOM MEETING!

The TC PAHCOM Chapter would be happy to have NPO guests at the July meeting!

**Title/topic:**

Preparing for the Medicare Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier

**Speaker:**

Stacey Hettiger; Director, Medical & Regulatory Policy, Michigan State Medical Society

**Date:** 7/20/16

**Time:** 07:30 AM - 09:00 AM

**Location:** Meetings are held at the NMC University Center (Room 216) on Dendrin Drive (near Cass & South Airport Road)

Questions? Email [jschichtel@mhc.net](mailto:jschichtel@mhc.net)

### GRAND RAPIDS eCLINICALWORKS DAY

What's an eClinicalWorks Day? It's an event at which you and your practice can attend education and training sessions for eClinicalWorks products and services. You can meet our software trainers and network with local eCW users. Come for the whole afternoon or just the sessions you want. No registration or attendance costs!

**REGISTER!**



### **MEMBER CONNECTIONS**

**For job postings, office space,  
equipment for sale, etc, please**

**CLICK HERE**

### **MSMS WEBINARS**

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Foundation offers webinars as part of their online education and training initiative. Join them for one of the webinars listed below, and be sure to check their website for additional webinar offerings.

**QUICK LINKS**

**Human Trafficking Overview and CPS Protocols**

FREE Lunch & Learn Webinar  
July 20, 12:15 - 1:00 pm

**Working Rejections**

July 20, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

**Claims Appeals**

August 17, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Adult Immunization in Michigan**

FREE Webinar  
August 30, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

For more information, including registration, [CLICK HERE](#). Practice managers and office staff should call Marianne BenHamza at (517) 336-7581 to sign up.

[NPO Website](#)

[NMHN Website](#)

[NPO Calendar](#)

**NPO is committed to providing great resources to our members!**



**Always feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions.  
The NPO Newsletters are for you.  
We would love your feedback.  
THANKS!**

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