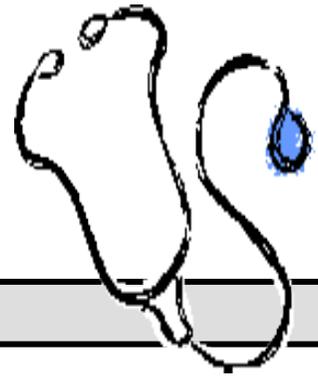


The Stethoscope



Newsletter of the Erie County Medical Society

Winter Issue



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President's Note...

Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The abuse of controlled substances has become rampant across the nation and is a familiar topic to all physicians in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Consider the following statistics from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2014, more than 14,000 people died from overdoses involving prescription opioids. The most common drugs involved in these opioid overdose deaths included methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone. The overdose rates have been the highest among people aged 25 to 54 years old. Every day in the U.S. over 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for misusing prescription opioids. In 2014, almost 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids. Closer to home, in Pennsylvania in 2014, there were just over 2,700 opioid overdose deaths alone. This was about a 13% increase from the prior year. Given this clear epidemic physicians need to utilize a comprehensive program for using controlled substances. One element to assist in this is the use of a prescription drug monitoring program.

Pennsylvania has had an existing prescription drug monitoring program for some time. This was only for Schedule II controlled substances and was run by the office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General. This has been replaced by a more robust program with Pennsylvania Act 191 entitled "Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions" (Act 191 or ABC-MAP law) which was signed into law in 2014. This new statewide electronic database will collect information about the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II through V controlled substances and will be operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. It is referred to as the "Pennsylvania Department of Health Prescription Drug Monitoring Program" or "PA-PDMP". The vendor for this database in Pennsylvania is Appriss. It should be noted that the goal of this is not intended to interfere with the legitimate medical use of controlled substances. Rather, its goal is to reduce the risk of addiction, diversion, and overdose of controlled substances. The hope of this program is that it will allow physicians to find those patients with controlled substance abuse problems and to direct them to treatment. Pennsylvania is now part of 49 states that have an existing PDMP or are in the process of creating one.

There are specific reporting requirements for those who dispense medications. Typically this will involve pharmacists who are required to collect and electronically submit information to PA-PDMP about each dispensing of a controlled substance drug within 72 hours. This will include mail order and internet sales of pharmaceuticals. Although

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physicians who prescribe these drugs are not required to submit any prescribing information, it will be necessary for them to query the system. In November 2016, Governor Wolf signed legislation that updated the PDMP law and set new regulations for opioids and benzodiazepines. Under these new regulations, as of January 1, 2017 it is necessary for physicians to query the PA-PDMP *each time* before an opioid or benzodiazepine is prescribed. If physicians actually dispense these drugs they will have to submit information to the PA-PDMP. Physicians should also query the system if in their clinical judgment they have reason to believe the patient may be abusing or diverting these drugs. Physicians may designate employees to access the program with a preference to licensed nurses. Information obtained from the system should be indicated in the patient's medical record if they are a new patient or if the physician determines that a drug should not be prescribed to a patient based on information obtained from the PA-PDMP. Physicians may use the system for any existing patient and they may query all prescriptions using the physician's own DEA number.

Third parties also have access to this PA-PDMP information. This will include law enforcement, Pennsylvania state officials, licensing boards, grand juries, medical examiners and coroners, Pennsylvania Department of Health officials, and other states. With regards to other states the PA-PDMP will allow Pennsylvania to share and receive data across state lines. This will be particularly important for those physicians who practice close to state lines. In general, after 7 years the records will be removed. Individuals who access the system without authorization may be subject to civil and criminal penalties. There will be a state board, defined by statute, that oversees and develops the policies and procedures for the program and an advisory board that will provide input and recommendations regarding the program. The PA-PDMP does not require dispensers or physicians to pay any fees for the use of this program. Finally, the Department of Health has developed a patient notice that must be displayed by physicians in their treatment settings. The PA-PDMP became functional in August of 2016 and it is has been easy to access the information.

It will be important for physicians prescribing controlled substances to devise a system to regularly query the PA-PDMP. Remember that it will be equally important for physicians to appropriately treat individuals that have been determined to be abusing controlled substances through the use of this system. This tool will help our profession to comprehensively manage the use of controlled substances and respond to the public health crisis related to the abuse of these agents.

References:

- Addressing PA's Opioid Crisis: What the Health Care Team Needs to Know. Pennsylvania Medical Society. www.pamedsoc.org/OpioidsCME. Published September 16, 2015. Accessed July 28, 2016.
- CDC Prescription Opioid Overdose Data. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose. Published/Updated June 21, 2016. Accessed July 28, 2016.
- PA Department of Health Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. PA Department of Health. www.doh.pa.gov/PDMP. Published 2016. Accessed July 28, 2016. ♦

Annual Business Meeting and
Dinner



Dr Timothy Pelkowski, ECMS President, provides an update on the Medical Society for members and guests prior to the presentation by Agent Alan McGill of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control.



Dr Timothy Pelkowski and Dr. Thomas Falasca prior to the evening's program.

Have You Renewed Your Erie County Medical Society and PAMED Membership?

If you've already renewed your membership, thank you for your continued support.

If you haven't renewed, don't miss a day of membership.

Renew today and continue to support a strong physician voice in Pennsylvania.

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- *The Dose*: weekly member email
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- **2017 Medical Record Copying Fees:** www.pamedsoc.org/copyingfees
- **Life of Medicine Resources:** resources for your life as a physician – www.pamedsoc.org/lifeofmedicine
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- ♦ Supporting increased medical student loan forgiveness in underserved areas
- ♦ Removing barriers to the expansion of telemedicine
- ♦ Requiring providers to be straightforward and fully transparent about licensing and board certification in advertisements



Erie County Medical Society

HEALTH EXPO

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 7th Annual Erie County Medical Society Health Expo on October 15, 2016 at the Millcreek Mall



Health Screenings
 Flu and Pneumonia Shots
 Community Resources
 Insurance Information
 Long Term Care
 Information

A special thank you to our sponsors:



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UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Physician 40 Under 40

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) launched the *Physician 40 Under 40* program in 2016 as a way to enable the Commonwealth's distinguished young physicians to gain recognition for their performance and contributions to their communities and to encourage them to remain in practice in the Keystone State.

Five members of the Erie County Medical Society were among those recognized:

Maggie Biebel, DO

Dr. Biebel is a family physician practicing at East Harbor Primary Care. She is the Chairperson of the Quality Committee for the St. Vincent Medical Group and is tasked with guiding the quality initiatives for the 173 members of this group representing a wide variety of specialties. Although this is an enormous responsibility, Dr. Biebel has shown that she is very able to meet this challenge.

Katherine Lund, DO

Dr. Lund is an emergency medicine specialist at St. Vincent Hospital. She is active in the community, serving as a mentor to high school students through the University of Pittsburgh's Health Care Scholars Academy and volunteering at a variety of public health community events.



Erie County Medical Society President Timothy Pelkowski recognized recipients of the PAMED 40 Under 40 Award during the November 9 2016 Membership Meeting. Pictured left to right are: Dr. Kelli Wienecke, Dr. Elizabeth Ramsey, Dr. Timothy Pelkowski, Dr. Katherine Lund and Dr. Maggie Biebel. Dr. Jorge Mercado was unable to attend.

Jorge Mercado, MD

Dr. Mercado is a pulmonary critical care specialist. He helped to initiate Erie's first and only pulmonary critical care fellowship and has served as the associate program director of the program.

Elizabeth Ramsey, DO

Dr. Ramsey is a psychiatrist with Meadville Medical Center and has gained a keen understanding of the importance of working in treatment teams through her work as an attending psychiatrist in a rural area. She is president of the Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society.

Kelli Wienecke, DO

Dr. Wienecke is a family medicine specialist with Millcreek Family Practice. She is very active in educating the public on health issues through various health fairs and in the media. She is the secretary of the Erie County Medical Society.

A Special Thank You to

Narendra S. Bhagwandien, MD
Mark K. Kauffman, DO
Timothy D. Pelkowski, MD
Kelli K Wienecke, DO

for graciously giving of their time to represent the Erie County Medical Society as delegates to the 2016 Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates in Hershey, PA

Welcome New & Reinstated Members

Active Members

Tray Lynne McCoy Maloskey, DO ♦ Susan L. Merwin, MD
Prabhav Patil, MD ♦ Shoa Nafisa Rizvi, MD
Lee S. Spain, DO ♦ Richard H. Spector, MD
Peter L. Wilczanski, MD

Resident Members

Kristen Juhasz, DO ♦ Kristen Lee Slinkard, MD

Student Members

Rizwan Khan ♦ Christopher Kordick
Mary Larisa Seroka ♦ Jordan M. Spencer

Affiliate Member

Ambil S. Rajagopal, MD

Administrative Members

Kathy Burger ♦ Julie Noonan

All of us at the
Erie County Medical Society
send best wishes to
our members and colleagues
for a happy and healthy
2017



Our Deepest Sympathy to

to the family of
David J. Mir, MD
who passed away on November 6, 2016



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