President’s Message: How Times Fly...

Jose Alejandro, PhD, RN-BC, MBA, CCM, FACHE

I can’t believe this will be my final President’s Message! It has been my extreme pleasure to have served as your national president over the past two years; but before I go, I would like to reflect on NAHN’s accomplishments during my tenure.

First, and foremost, we have hired CMI to provide association management services which has allowed the board of directors to transition from a tactical to strategic leadership group.

I have been privileged to have a Board of Directors that was transformational in reaching several milestones as an organization! For example, we have offered over $300,000 annually in scholarships and related services over the past two years. NAHN has also grown in membership by 50 percent since 2012. NAHN has also received several grants to improve the health of our communities which include private and governmental organizations. NAHN has made numerous appointments to state and national organizations which improves the voice of Hispanic nurses and communities. It also promotes NAHNs visibility as a major stakeholder in healthcare.

The annual conference is approaching which means election season is upon us! Elections are important in selecting the right leadership to move the organization forward while promoting sustainability for years to come. Dan Suarez, MN, RN, President-Elect, assumes the presidency at the close of the conference with a new Board of Directors to guide the organization. Many are not aware that an individual elected as president-elect serves a six year term (two years as president-elect; two years as president; and two years as past president). A commitment is essential to growth of the organization.

Mario Chavez, BSN, RN, Awards & Scholarship Committee, is seeking applicants for the scholarships and nominations for the awards. It is extremely important for NAHN to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to improve the health of our communities and/or promote advancement of Hispanics in the nursing profession. I would encourage all members to apply for the scholarships and awards.

As a final note, I want to thank you, the membership, for allowing me to serve as your president. It has been a such a wonderful experience that has enriched my own professional experience.

Sincerely,

Jose Alejandro
NAHN President, 2012-2014
NAHN at a Glance

the official publication of NAHN National Association of Hispanic Nurses®

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Mailing Address:
6301 Ranch Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223
DC Office:
750 First Street NE, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20002
501-367-8616 | fax 501-227-5444
info@thehispanicnurses.org
http://www.thehispanicnurses.org
http://www.nahnnet.org

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NAHN President to become Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing

Congratulations to NAHN’s President, Jose Alejandro, PhD, MBA, RN-BC, CCM, FACHE, who will be inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) during the 2014 AAN Annual Meeting and Conference in October 16-18, 2014, Washington, DC, in recognition for his outstanding contributions and achievements in nursing.

The Academy’s more than 2,100 members—known as fellows—are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice and research. Fellows include: association executives; university presidents, chancellors, and deans; state and federal political appointees; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; nurse consultants; researchers; and entrepreneurs.

“The qualities that earned Jose his AAN Fellowship can be clearly seen in his leadership, not only in NAHN, but also anywhere he works and volunteers,” said Celia Trigo Besore, MBA, CAE, Executive Director & CEO of NAHN. “Congratulations, Jose. This recognition is well-deserved.”

Fellows have been recognized for their extraordinary nursing careers and are among the nation’s most highly-educated citizens: more than 90 percent that hold doctoral degrees and the rest have completed masters programs.

If you know of any other NAHN member who will be inducted, please notify Celia Besore at cbesore@thehispanicnurses.org so we can feature them in the next newsletter!

Members in the News

Armando Riera, RN, MSN, NP-BC, visited Ecuador in March 2014 as part of a mission with Women for World Health (WWH), an organization that travels to developing nations and provides free plastic/reconstructive surgery to poor children with birth defects or traumatic injuries. The WWH team performed 54 surgeries in Cuenca, Ecuador. These surgeries were life changing for the children and included cleft-lips, cleft-palates, release of burn contractures, skin grafts, tumor removals and Polydactyly.

This is his second trip with WWH, having gone to Romania in May, 2013, where the team performed 44 surgeries. He is looking forward to the next mission trip to Lircay, Peru in August, 2014.

Congratulations to NAHN Past President Antonia Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN, who has been named dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, effective July 1. Villarruel is currently a professor, the Nola J. Pender Collegiate Chair and the associate dean for research and global affairs at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. She also has ties to Penn’s School of Nursing. She is an alumna of Penn Nursing, a faculty member in 1995-2000 and a collaborator and co-author with several Penn faculty.
As associate dean for research and global affairs at Michigan’s nursing school, Villarruel has broad experience with nursing research and scholarship in all its forms: biomedical, biobehavioral, population-based, health services, policy-oriented, global and historical. Her efforts to support nursing faculty in developing research programs have led to a steady increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health. She holds a joint faculty appointment in the School of Public Health at Michigan and serves as director of the School’s World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Research and Clinical Training in Health Promotion Nursing.

NAHN President-Elect Meets with Administration Officials

NAHN President-elect Dan Suarez, MN, RN represented NAHN at a meeting with top HHS administration officials on May 9, 2014. The Nurses Week Stakeholder Meeting took place at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and included briefings by Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Mary K. Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; and Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams, Chief Nurse Officer, U.S. Public Health Service.

NAHN Chapter Tidbits

Connecticut Chapter

Chapter Hosts Awards & Scholarship Gala

The CT NAHN is pleased to announce the Award & Scholarship Recipients at the 2nd Annual Awards & Scholarship Gala on May 2, 2014:

- Thalia Soriano, Fairfield University
- Kristal Velazquez, Southern Connecticut State University
- Sheila Michelle Collado, Southern Connecticut State University

Plaque Presentation

Recognition of Support of CT NAHN

Bridgeport Hospital:

- Mary Ellen Kosturko, MAHSM, BSN RN, Sr. Vice President, Patient Care Operations & School of Nursing, Chief Nursing Officer

VA CT Healthcare System:

- Margaret Veezey, MSN RN, Associate Director for Patient Care Services, & Associate Director Nursing Care Services

Brownsville Chapter

Member Uses Settlement for Scholarships

By Melissa Montoya, The Brownsville Herald

A battle waged against the federal government has paid off for Eloisa G. Taméz, RN, PhD, FAAN, a professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

One of Brownsville’s most vocal opponents to the border fence, Tamez took the federal government to task when it tried to condemn her land to build a swath of border fence there.

The federal government is expected to pay Tamez $56,000 for the land it took from her, according to court documents. Tamez said she will be establishing a scholarship for students at the university with a portion of her settlement.

The scholarship fund launched on May 3, her parent’s 80th wedding anniversary. Her parents are deceased, but Tamez said she wanted to honor them this way because, even though they left school at an early age, they were strong proponents of education.

Read the full article at: http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/local/article_ce9ac5f0-c120-11e3-a221-001a4bcf6878.html.

Illinois Chapter

2014 Illinois Minority Health Conference with the American Heart Association

The Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association and the American Heart Association participated at the 2014 Illinois Minority Health Conference, supported by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services. This year’s conference seized the momentum of national health care reform to foster dialogue, offer strategies, and provide a roadmap for a bridge to health equity in Illinois. The 3rd Annual Illinois Minority Health Conference’s goal was to educate and build partnerships among health professionals and community stakeholders that removes barriers, strengthen communities, promote diversity and eliminate health disparities. This year’s conference theme, “Access + Treatment = Healthy Communities,” is in alignment with the Illinois Department of Public Health’s strategic five-year plan, which will maximize the department’s effectiveness, influence and value for promoting wellness, health equity, safety and improved health outcomes.

Fil Guipoco, M.A., Health Equity Director for the American Heart Association, said, “Working with the Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association has been a great success in the American Heart Association’s efforts within the Health Equity field. We continue to reach out to our Latino communities and build strong partnerships to lower the rate of cardiovascular disease. I genuinely know that this partnership makes a sig-
significant difference in our Metro Chicago neighborhoods and am truly grateful to all of the IHNA members for the time, dedication and passion they continue to provide to our mission”.

Elizabeth Florez, Ph.D., R.N., a member of the Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association, and Fil Guipoco, M.A. presented, Partnerships Making an Impact within Our Latino Communities: Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association and the American Heart Association. This session focused on the benefits, considerations and process of small local groups/agencies partnering with larger nationally-based organizations, and provided the structure on how both organizations shared resources and implemented Spanish-based programs and events during a 15-month span to benefit the Latino community throughout metro Chicago.

“Sharing the success and impact of IHNA and the American Heart Association partnership with key community stakeholders, and those involved in minority health initiatives was essential to help encourage others to develop similar partnerships that can build healthier communities,” said Florez.

Both organizations continue to invest in this relationship through involvement with the Multicultural Leadership Committee, as well as exploring grant opportunities and developing community program projects such as A Todo Corazon and other Latino-based projects throughout the Metro Chicago area. The vision continues to be the expansion of this relationship throughout the American Heart Association’s Midwest Affiliate, and eventually throughout the country.

New Jersey Chapter

Governor Christie Appoints NAHN Members to NJ Board of Nursing

On March 20, 2014, New Jersey State Governor Chris Christie filed direct appointments with the Secretary of the State’s office for two of our own NAHN NJ Chapter nurse representatives and Executive Board Members to sit on the New Jersey Board of Nursing:

- Dr. Gina Miranda-Diaz, DNP, MS/MPH, RN, NJS, Health Officer of West New York and current Vice President of NJ NAHN
- Yolanda Delgado, MSN, RNC, Nurse Manager at Saint Peter’s University Hospital and current President of NJ NAHN

Hartford Chapter

Chapter Presents Disaster Training with Hartford Hospital

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses Hartford Chapter, in collaboration with Hartford Hospital, presented “Disaster Training: Empowering the Elderly” on Feb. 22, 2014. Katherine McCormack, CT MRC Liaison, staffed a booth to increase MRC awareness and to recruit new members.

The symposium was held at Heublein Hall Education and Resource Center at Hartford Hospital and included keynote presenter, Ruth Amador, RN, MSN; Edward Kramer, MPH, PhD, Regional Coordinator Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness; Carlos Huertas, Chief of the Hartford Fire Department; and Edwin Diaz, RN, Captain, Hartford Fire Department.

Phoenix Chapter

Check For Life: A Beauty Shop Program Promoting Blood Pressure Awareness in the Latino Community

A Partnership of NAHN Phoenix Chapter and the American Heart Association

The NAHN Phoenix Chapter, in partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA), Western States Affiliate, designed and implemented Check for Life, a beauty shop program among five Latino-owned beauty shops, promoting blood pressure awareness and heart health education in Phoenix, Arizona.

Overall, the program is consistent with the AHA mission of improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.

Recruitment was led by the Phoenix Chapter, who also provided training and ongoing support resources for each beauty shop site. Funded by the AHA, Check for Life was led by Adriana Perez, PhD, ANP-BC (Principal Investigator), Bertha Sepulveda, RN, BSN, (Program Coordinator), and an outstanding team of many NAHN Phoenix Chapter members, including: Silvia Gallardo, RN; Tony Ornelas, RN, BSN; Paulette Lizzaraga, RN; Alice Facio, RN; Corina Chick, RN, BSN; Marina Bradberry, DNP, RN, A/G NP-C; Crystal Calderon, RN and others who provided bilingual program materials, as well as collected and analyzed blood pressure screening data.

Hair stylists kept a record of the number of people screened and the number of elevated readings, and they were trained to provide brief responses based on these readings. The team received a Best Poster Award at the San Antonio, Cultural Inclusion Institute conference (2013) and they presented at the NAHN national conference in Puerto Rico (2012).

Most importantly, Adriana Garcia, a beauty shop owner and participant, credited Bertha Sepulveda and the program with teaching her about blood pressure normal values and heart health. Some time later, Adriana detected abnormal, “danger zone/red zone” blood pressure on herself. She sought immediate treatment and learned that she was having a stroke.

Learn more about the program from the recent Univision

CHAPTER TIDBITS, see page 6
Join NAHN and a united nursing profession this summer as we explore Hispanic health challenges and shape the future of nursing at NAHN's 39th Annual Conference!

While being immersed in the energizing atmosphere of Miami among your peers, heighten your nursing expertise in four key areas: Clinical, Healthcare Reform, Best Practices and My Nursing Career. NAHN's 39th Annual Conference will deliver a high caliber of content, covering popular topics such as the Affordable Care Act and patient engagement, as well as unique issues such as emerging nursing roles and rare diseases in the Hispanic population. NAHN welcomes not only Latino nurses and health care professionals, but also those from any ethnic background who are leaders in improving health care for the Latino community.

Dates: July 15 – 18, 2014
Location: Miami, FL
Register: View the full agenda, event details and registration information at www.nahnnet.org/NAHNMeetings.html

Who Should Attend?
Our program is designed for nurses, nurse educators, researcher, clinicians, nursing students, and anyone interested in learning about successful best practices in nursing and related research as it correlates to Hispanic health issues.

Conference Tracks:
• My Nursing Career
• Healthcare Reform
• Clinical Practice
• Best Practices

Keynote Speakers:
Michelle Aguilar
Michelle Aguilar entered “The Biggest Loser” looking to lose weight and resurrect her relationship with her mother. She emerged a champion on both levels. Aguilar was crowned “The Biggest Loser: Families” champion during the NBC reality weight-loss series’ sixth season.

Abran “ARonic” Maldonado
Hip hop artist, music industry veteran, emerging scholar, and entrepreneur, Abran “ARonic” Maldonado, is the director of Positive Entertainment And Creative Education also known as PEACE, an enrichment program that specializes in addressing the needs of underserved youth.

Ana M. Viamonte Ros
Ana M. Viamonte Ros, MD, is the director of Medical Staff Development for Baptist Health International. Dr. Viamonte was Florida’s first State Surgeon General, and the first woman and Cuban American to serve as head of the Florida Department of Health from 2007-2011.

Venue & Accommodations
Hyatt Regency Miami
400 SE 2nd Ave
Miami, FL 31331
T (305) 358-1234
Primer Impacto national news segment at: “Un salón de belleza que puede salvarte la vida.”

Phoenix will Host Inaugural Conference

The Phoenix Chapter will host a conference on Friday, August 22, 2014, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The theme of the conference is “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health In Arizona – The Vision of Diverse Nurse Leaders.”

NAHN Update

View Candidates for the 2014 NAHN Board of Directors Election

The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) is pleased to present to the NAHN voting members the nominees running for the open positions in the Board of Directors and in the Nominating Committee. Voting will begin June 9, 2014.

Candidates for Board of Directors

President-elect
• Anabell Castro-Thompson, MSN, RN, ANP-C
• Eloisa G. Taméz, RN, PhD, FAAN

Secretary
• Fortuna “Tuni” Borrego, MSN, BSN, RN
• Sonia Valdez, RN, BSN, CVRN, PHN

Treasurer
• Josephine (Josie) Gloria Foley, RN, MS, CCM
• Armando Riera, RN, MSN, NP-BC

Board Member
• Judith Aponte, PhD, RN, CDE, CCM, APHN-BC
• Mario Alfredo Chavez, BSN, RN
• Alana Cueto, MSN, RN, CNL
• Francisco Diaz, GNP-BC ANP-BC
• Jennifer Marie Figueroa-Delgado, ANP-BC, MS, RN
• Olga Jarrín, PhD, RN
• Adrianna Nava, MSN, RN
• G. Adriana Perez, PhD, RN, ANP-BC
• Rev. Suleima Rosario-Diaz, M.Div., MSN, RN
• Maria Elena Ruiz, PhD, RN, FNP-BC
• Ana Cristina Sanchez-Birkhead, PhD, APR
• Manuel Santa Cruz, DNP, MBA, RN
• Veronica Vital, RN, PhD

Nominating Committee
• Catherine Benavidez Clayton, MS, RN, NP
• Charles Emmanuel Cal, RN, MSN, MBA, CPHQ
• Daisy Perez, PhD(c), MSN/Ed, RNC

To view each candidate’s biography information and positioning statement, visit: http://nahnnet.org/2014_NAHN_Election_Candidates.html.

To view each candidate’s first campaign message to all voting members, please visit http://cmi.informz.net/cmi-nahn/data/images/NAHN-Campaign-Brochure.pdf.

Keep Your NAHN Record Up to Date

NAHN members can now directly access their membership database record so they can update the information whenever needed. It is very easy and you can do it NOW!

• Go to http://ow.ly/qwIw8. We have also added a link to the database under the “Communicate” section at the NAHN homepage, http://www.nahnnet.org. Look for Members Login.
• Click Login in the left-hand side menu.
• Enter your username as the primary e-mail NAHN uses to communicate with you. Please contact NAHN headquarters if you need help.
• Enter the password: Password1. (The first time you login, it will force you to change your password.)
• Enter the old password as Password1, then enter twice your new password. If you forget it later, you can always take advantage of the Forgot Password? link.
• After doing so, you will be directed to My Information. Click Edit Information to update your record.

The Miami Chapter Of NAHN Is Revving Their Engines To Host The National Conference!

We Are Anxiously Awaiting All Of Our Members And Guests!

Hope To See You All In July In Our Beautiful City Of Miami!!
**Why We Need More Information**

Having accurate member information helps NAHN to deliver more relevant and timely information to our membership.

We get occasional calls looking for members to be interviewed regarding particular subjects. Knowing your area of expertise will allow us to identify the appropriate member.

We also are invited to nominate members to outside committees and councils. Being able to identify members that would qualify for those appointments facilitates NAHN’s participation in these groups.

We also need the information to better describe who our members are to potential supporters.

**NAHN Advertisers**

Please remember to support the NAHN web advertisers (as of May 25, 2014). These companies have chosen to financially support NAHN.

- Air Force Civilian Service
- UCLA Health Systems
- Centers for Disease Control

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**NAHN Job Board**

Did you know that NAHN’s Career Headquarters has some wonderful job openings in many different positions around the U.S.?

If you or someone you know is looking for a new opportunity, don’t forget to check out http://www.thehispanicnurses.org/jobpress/.

Below are some of the jobs listed, as of May 29, 2014:

- RN Clinical Nurse-Children’s Medical Practice
- Academic Site Director for the Accelerated Second Degree Nursing Program (Florida)
- RN Medical Case Manager -Workers Compensation - Travelers (Pennsylvania Reading, PA)
- Nurse Practice Manager (Sacramento, CA)
- Academic Director for the Accelerated Second Degree Nursing Program (Utica, New York)
- Nurse Educator (New York, NY)
- RN Clinician 2 – Hybrid Cardiovascular/Operating Room (Charlottesville, Virginia, USA)
- Director of Nursing
- Assistant Clinical Professor, Nursing (Kingston, RI)
- Pediatric Perioperative Educator/Pediatric Operating Room – Pod Manager (San Francisco, CA) United States)
- Assistant Nursing Professor (2 vacancies) (Tallahassee, Fla.)

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**GNA’s**

**LONG TERM CARE & REHAB:**

**ALL SHIFTS**

Charles E. Smith Life Communities, a 37-acre, 9-building campus in Rockville, MD, offers a continuum of elder care services for the DC area.

We are currently seeking COMPASSIONATE & COMPETENT GNA’s for Long Term Care and Rehab

7.5 Hour ~ Day/Night/Evening ~ Full-Time ~ Part-Time/Every other weekend

Ideal candidates will provide assigned residents with Compassionate and Competent routine daily care and services in accordance with the residents’ needs. This includes activities of daily living (showering, dressing, grooming, etc...), as necessary.

We offer on-the-job training, competitive wages and a great benefits package that includes affordable health care and generous leave.

Come work in an environment that values teamwork and professional development!

**Qualifications:**

- H.S. Diploma or equivalent
- Must have successfully completed a Geriatric Nursing Assistant program within 120 days of employment
- Current CPR Certification
- Sub-acute or dementia experience is a plus

*If you would like to be considered, please apply in person or submit a resume and indicate Shift with Full-Time/Part-Time preferences:*

Lisa Parks-Balogun, Clinical Recruiter
Charles E. Smith Life Communities
6121 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852
Fax: (301) 770-8511
Email: parksbalogun@hebrew-home.org.

EOE, M/F/D/V

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**Charles E. Smith Life Communities**

www.smithlifecommunities.org
Encourage your employer to post job openings on the NAHN Career Headquarters page! Contact Lindsay Harp at sales@thehispanicnurses.org for more information.

Let’s Get Social

We want to invite our members to “get social” and join the NAHN social media sites. Become a “fan” of the NAHN Facebook page and follow our “tweets” on our Twitter page.

Click on the links below and join us now!

- **NAHN Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/pages/National-Association-of-Hispanic-Nurses/357006211690
- **NAHN Twitter Page:** @nahnnursing or www.twitter.com/nahnnursing.
- **NAHN LinkedIn:** www.linkedin.com/groups/National-Association-Hispanic-Nurses-2358996/about

We have also now added additional social sites, including:

- **NAHN Instagram Site:** www.instagram.com/nahnnursing
- **NAHN Pinterest Site:** www.pinterest.com/nahnnursing
- **NAHN Flickr Site:** www.flickr.com/photos/101014955@N03/101014955@N03

News from Our Corporate Members

Pfizer RxPathways

**Pfizer® Consolidates Patient Assistance Programs into One Program**

Dear Community, Healthcare and Patient Advocates,

As you know, the health care environment has been changing at a rapid pace. We, therefore, have been talking to healthcare providers, patients and patient advocates to understand how the Pfizer Helpful Answers patient assistance programs can be improved to better meet the needs of patients in the future.

One consistent theme we heard through these discussions was the need to continue simplifying and streamlining our patient assistance offerings. Based on that feedback, we are pleased to let you know that beginning April 1, 2014, Pfizer is consolidating all of our patient assistance programs into one comprehensive program, called Pfizer RxPathways™. The new name, Pfizer RxPathways, is intended to better reflect the purpose of the program; namely – to provide patients with “pathways” to get access to their Pfizer medicine(s) – and will replace all Pfizer patient assistance programs.

Pfizer RxPathways will provide the same services to patients while improving their experience in using it.

The new program will continue to help eligible patients – uninsured, underinsured and insured – get access to their Pfizer medicines by offering a range of support services, including providing Pfizer medicines for free or at a savings, and more. The new program streamlines the process to get Pfizer medicines by consolidating the number of applications for various products. There will be a single phone number for patients to call should they have questions. Eligible patients who are currently receiving a medicine through Pfizer RxPathways and need access to another one, may automatically qualify for it, without having to complete additional paperwork.

Current patients receiving their medicine through one of Pfizer’s patient assistance programs are not required to take action at this time

Patients who are currently receiving their medicines through one of Pfizer’s patient assistance programs will not have to take any action to continue receiving their medicines when Pfizer RxPathways launches in April. Patients will be automatically enrolled into Pfizer RxPathways. The enrollment period and enrollment dates will stay the same. At the end of their enrollment period, if patients still need help getting access to their Pfizer medicines, they can re-enroll in Pfizer RxPathways.

New Pfizer RxPathways resources are available to help spread the word

In preparation for the launch of the new program we have developed a new, user-friendly, easy-to-navigate website where patients and their advocates can learn more about Pfizer RxPathways at www.PfizerRxPath.com.

The website will be available on April 1st. On that website you can find information about the services and benefits offered, access applications and download or order free materials that can be distributed to members in your community to inform them of the help that is available through Pfizer RxPathways.

Our commitment to improving access to medicines

We remain committed to helping patients in need get access to our medicines, and we sincerely hope that the consolidation of our patient assistance offerings will make it even easier for eligible patients to apply and enroll.

As always, we thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Pfizer RxPathways Team

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

**PhRMA Warns Out-of-pocket Costs Could Double Under O-Care**

*By Ferdous Al-Faruque - 05/15/14 01:43 PM EDT*

A new study commissioned by PhRMA finds that many consumers in ObamaCare’s insurance exchanges could end up paying more than twice as much in out-of-pocket drug costs.

The report for the nation’s top drug lobby was conducted by actuarial firm Milliman, which found that people on the Silver Plan, the most popular ObamaCare plan, would likely pay 130 percent more for out-of-pocket prescription drugs compared to people on similar employer-sponsored plans.

One reason why out-of-pocket costs are likely to be higher is because employer plans are more generous than typical...
Silver Plans, according to the report. However, the numbers don't account for government subsidies to purchase insurance, which could have a significant impact on overall patient health costs.

"With combined deductible plans, patients are responsible for 100 percent of their non-preventive medical and pharmacy costs before meeting the deductible," notes the report.

"The findings reveal that the large combined deductibles for all medical spending that are common in Silver plans in Exchanges may disproportionately impact out-of-pocket costs for patients relying on prescription medicines," it adds.

"Americans participating in the Exchanges were promised coverage comparable to employer plans and yet the reality is that many new plans are failing to provide an appropriate level of access to quality, affordable health care," said John Castellani, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America, which funded the study.

"Patients face hurdles in accessing the medicines they need to manage their conditions, which is particularly problematic for Americans trying to control their chronic diseases," he added.

Health Policy & Legislative Affairs

Medicare: H.R. 4302 and H.R. 4015

By Dr. Mirian Zavala, DNS, RN

Congressman Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA-16) introduced to Congress H.R. 4302 on March 26, 2014. The 113th Congress passed H.R. 4302: Protecting Access to Medicare Act and it was signed into law by President Obama on April 1, 2014. This act prevented the approximate 24 percent reimbursement reduction rates to physicians and postponed the reduction until March 31, 2015. However, it did not address repealing the Sustainable Growth Rate formula.

The Sustainable Growth Rate formula correlates the Medicare spending increase to economic growth (gross domestic product). The thinking at the time – in 1997 – was to gradually decrease the reimbursement rates to physicians and facilities that serve the Medicare consumers. In 2003, Doc fix was first enacted to temporarily delay the adjustments to the reimbursement rates.

Congressman Michael Burgess (R-Tx-26) introduced to Congress H.R. 4015 to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes. H.R. 4015 passed the House of Representatives on March 14, 2014 and is currently in the Senate.

The following is an excerpt from the White House concerning H.R. 4015: “The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4015 … because it includes an offset that would increase health insurance premiums, decrease tax credits, increase the number of uninsured, and shift costs to businesses, workers, and health care providers.”

National Climate Assessment Report Released, Shows Adverse Effects on Health

A new White House report released on May 6, 2014, concludes that human-generated climate change is having dramatic effects on every part of the nation. The National Climate Assessment concludes that climate change is raising temperatures, making water more scarce and wildfires more common. The report looks also at the impact of the environment on health.

See the full report at www.globalchange.gov.

Marketplace Enrollment Report/Medicaid Enrollment Report

Enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace surged to eight million at the end of the first enrollment period. The final enrollment reporting period spans from October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, and includes “in line” and other enrollment activity (such as people enrolling due to a change in life circumstance) reported through Saturday, April 19, 2014.

Importantly, 2.2 million (28 percent) of those who selected a Marketplace plan were young adults ages 18 to 34 — a number that grows to 2.7 million when counting ages 0 to 34, the report found. The report also shows, for the first time, the race and ethnicity of the 69 percent of enrollees in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces who voluntarily reported this information.

Physician Payment Data Release

In letters to the American Medical Association and Florida Medical Association (http://downloads.cms.gov/files/Madara_Final_Signed.pdf), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced their intent to take another major step forward in making their health care system more transparent and accountable. They plan to provide the public unprecedented access to information about the number and type of health care services that individual physicians and certain other health care professionals delivered in 2012, and the amount Medicare paid them for those services, beginning not earlier than April 9. Providing consumers with this information will help them make more informed choices about the care they receive.

The new data provides a better picture of how physicians practice in the Medicare program, and the payments they receive. This data contains information on more than 880,000 health care professionals in all 50 states who collectively received $77 billion in payments in 2012 for services delivered to beneficiaries under the Medicare Part B Fee-For-Service program. With this data, it will be possible to conduct a wide range of analyses that compare 6,000 different types...
Children act fast. So can laundry packet accidents.

Make it a habit to always store liquid laundry packets out of reach and sight of children to prevent injury, and in their original package until they are ready to be used.

**WARNING!** Children are curious and whether you want them to or not, tend to put all sorts of different things in their mouth. Food, rattles, toys, teethers - you name it. And, even some things they shouldn’t!

Serious harm including accidental ingestion and eye exposure can occur if children get their hands on liquid laundry packets. Each laundry packet contains highly concentrated liquid laundry detergent and can cause serious injury if they end up in the hands and mouths of children.

As a medical professional you can help prevent laundry packet accidents by educating and encouraging parents and caregivers to always store the packets out of reach and sight and in their original container or pouch.

In observance of June’s National Safety Month, the American Cleaning Institute® (ACI) is urging you to help parents and caregivers re-evaluate their homes, particularly the laundry room. To help ensure that children are safe take the KEY Pledge. Here’s how:

**Keep single-load liquid laundry packets out of the reach of children**

**Educate your family and friends about the safe use and storage of these new laundry products**

**You serve a key role in laundry safety**

If you will be attending the NAHN conference, stop by booth 602 to take the pledge or visit keypledge.com. Your pledge will enter you into a sweepstakes to win a $2,500 gift card.*

关键

*As reported by the American Association of Poison Control Centers

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Ends on December 31, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET. Open to legal residents of 50 U.S. and D.C. 21 and older. Void where prohibited. For Official Rules, go to http://www.keypledge.com/KeyPledge/termsConditions.html
of services and procedures provided, as well as payments received by individual health care providers.

CMS takes beneficiary privacy very seriously, and does not publicly release any personally-identifiable information about beneficiaries. To further protect beneficiary identities and safeguard this information in this new data, CMS will redact all data in cases where it includes fewer than 11 beneficiaries.

Data like these can shine a light on how care is delivered in the Medicare program. They can help consumers compare the services provided and payments received by individual health care providers. Businesses and consumers alike can use this data to drive decision-making and reward quality, cost-effective care. CMS looks forward to describing how this information can inform consumers and health care providers when we release this data in the near future.

The initiative announced today, as well as the previously released hospital data, builds on the powerful tools CMS has from the Affordable Care Act to advance transparency in the health care system. For example, Medicare is beginning to pay providers based on the quality they deliver rather than just the quantity of services they furnish by implementing new programs such as value-based purchasing and readmissions reductions. In addition, last year, CMS made approximately $87 million available to states to enhance their rate review programs and further health care pricing transparency.

While CMS has made significant progress in making the health care system more open and accountable, they look forward to making this important, new information available so that consumers, Medicare and other payers can get the best value for their health care dollar.


Questions or Concerns? Contact HHSIEA@hhs.gov.

Other News

May is Asthma Awareness Month

One in ten kids in America today suffers from asthma, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-income families. EPA promotes scientific understanding of environmental asthma triggers and management through research, education and community-focused outreach. As part of EPA’s ongoing effort to increase public awareness of asthma and partner with communities across the nation, the agency is also honoring three exceptional programs for improving the lives of people with asthma in underserved communities.

Read about the honored programs here: http://go.usa.gov/kHTH.

Watch EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy’s video message on asthma here: http://youtu.be/xi-DgJ9cLN0. Watch the video in Spanish here: http://youtu.be/08Sjg2oJohE.

Get location-specific reports on current air quality with the AirNow mobile app here: http://go.usa.gov/kHxC.

New AFA C.A.R.E.S. Program

The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) invites health care professionals and community organizations to participate in its new Community Memory Screenings and Awareness-Raising Education (AFA C.A.R.E.S.) program. AFA C.A.R.E.S. promotes the importance of early detection and intervention for memory loss. It builds on AFA’s successful National Memory Screening Day held each November and is designed to meet the increasing demand for memory screenings year-round.

IT’S EASY TO GET INVOLVED! Offer free, confidential memory screenings to the general public or targeted groups at your organization/facility (e.g., hospital, senior center, pharmacy, long-term care residence, community agency) or at events such as health fairs and educational workshops—on a regular basis (e.g., daily, weekly or monthly) or as a one-time event. A memory screening takes 5 to 10 minutes to administer by a qualified healthcare professional; it is not a diagnostic test, but the results can indicate whether a person might benefit from a more extensive medical exam. AFA will provide a free turnkey toolkit of materials in English and Spanish, including instructions, forms, screening tools, posters, educational booklets and publicity tools; and will list your event details on its website. If needed, AFA can also help toward the cost of a professional to administer the screenings.

Sign up today at www.nationalmemoryscreening.org, or for more information, contact Melissa Austen at mausten@alzfdn.org or 866-232-8484.

CDC Updates for Clinicians: ATSDR’s Toxic Substances Web Portal

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s (ATSDR) Toxic Substances Web Portal provides comprehensive access to the best science, the latest research, and important information about how toxic substances can affect health.

To view the portal, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Toxic-Substances/.

Five Important Reasons to Vaccinate Your Child

You want to do what is best for your children. You know about the importance of car seats, baby gates and other ways to keep them safe. But, did you know that one of the best ways to protect your children is to make sure they have all of their vaccinations?
Immunizations can save your child’s life. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children have been eliminated completely and others are close to extinction—primarily due to safe and effective vaccines. One example of the great impact that vaccines can have is the elimination of polio in the United States. Polio was once America’s most-feared disease, causing death and paralysis across the country, but today, thanks to vaccination, there are no reports of polio in the United States.

Vaccination is very safe and effective. Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccines will involve some discomfort and may cause pain, redness, or tenderness at the site of injection but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare. The disease-prevention benefits of getting vaccines are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.

Immunization protects others you care about. Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. In fact, we have seen resurgences of measles and whooping cough (pertussis) over the past few years. From January through July 2013, more than 11,000 cases of whooping cough were reported, with cases in every state. Last year was a record year, with over 14,000 cases reported, the most since 1955. There were also 18 deaths reported in 2012, most of which were among babies younger than 3 months old. Unfortunately, some babies are too young to be completely vaccinated and some people may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies, weakened immune systems from conditions like leukemia, or other reasons. To help keep them safe, it is important that you and your children who are able to get vaccinated are fully immunized. This not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.

Immunizations can save your family time and money. A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at schools or daycare facilities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and usually covered by insurance. The Vaccines for Children program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children from low-income families. To find out more about the VFC program, visit http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/ or ask your child’s health care professional.

Immunization protects future generations. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that killed or severely disabled people just a few generations ago. For example, smallpox vaccination eradicated that disease worldwide. Your children don’t have to get smallpox shots any more because the disease no longer exists. By vaccinating children against rubella (German measles), the risk that pregnant women will pass this virus on to their fetus or newborn has been dramatically decreased, and birth defects associated with that virus no longer are seen in the United States. If we continue vaccinating now, and vaccinating completely, parents in the future may be able to trust that some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children in the future.

For more information about the importance of infant immunization, visit http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

This document can be found on the CDC website at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/.

Health Impacts of Climate Change Today

The National Climate Assessment (NCA) report, released on May 6th, paints a challenging picture when it comes to public health and climate change. As extreme weather events become the new normal, we face longer, hotter summers, earlier spring and drier winters. People with chronic lung and heart disease, the elderly, and young children are increasingly at risk.

The NCA provides clear evidence that climate change, driven in part by the buildup of carbon pollution from power plants, contributes to unhealthy levels of air pollution, increased risk from allergens, flooding, drought and wildfires. The extreme drought in the southwest and the massive flooding seen in April in Florida are examples. This summer may bring higher ozone smog and increased wildfires. People all over the United States are feeling the effects now.

Unfortunately, Americans do not evenly share these burdens. Children, seniors, and people with lower incomes, as well as certain racial and ethnic groups, may be exposed to greater harm from the changing climate.

Why is there such a disparity? Children and older adults are more vulnerable, in part, because of their stage in life. Their bodies respond more to pollutants like ozone smog and wildfire smoke than do healthy adults.

Existing differences in health and income place many at greater risk. People with chronic diseases like asthma face increased risk from high air pollution, especially where summer smog hovers or wildfires erupt. Low-income communities may have high local sources of air pollution or be downwind of large pollution sources, which can increase the risk of heart attacks. Low-income communities also face greater challenges when emergencies require them to evacuate their homes or seek remote medical care.

In early June 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to propose the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants, the biggest source of that most powerful climate change agent. It is also the intent of President Obama’s administration to reduce the environmental health impact of the carbon pollution generated from these plants.

It is important that nurses and other healthcare providers pay attention to and learn more about these issues that impact disproportionately our community. For example, higher incidences of asthma among Latinos of Puerto Rican descent
mean millions of people more vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution in our communities.

You can find additional information at the American Lung Association’s Healthy Air page, http://www.lung.org/healthy-air/.

Opportunities

HRSA Grant Reviewers Wanted

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – Office of Federal Assistance Management (OFAM) - Division of Independent Review is currently seeking volunteers, especially those of diverse background, to sign up to be a part of a pool to serve as a Grant Reviewer for HRSA programs. HRSA has recently launched a new peer-Reviewer Recruitment Module database on the HRSA website, where those qualified can apply to become reviewers: https://rrm.grantsolutions.gov/AgencyPortal/hrsa.aspx.

Grant reviewers fill a vital niche for OFAM by performing a service for the agency, and reviewers also gain valuable insights into what makes for a successful application. Volunteers sign up to become part of a pool, from which they are contacted to review grant proposals that come within their expertise.

OFAM supported a record $7 billion portfolio in 2013, and Division Director Jeannie Davis hopes more academics, clinicians and allied health professionals from minority as well as underserved and underrepresented populations will participate in the grant-review process.

The HRSA - Bureau of Health Professions - Division of Nursing is recruiting for quality nursing professionals to serve as Grant Reviewers and encourage you to submit your information in the new peer-reviewer recruitment module.

Texas Nurse Practitioner Scholarships

The Texas Nurse Practitioner Foundation is pleased to announce that six $1500 scholarships will be granted in 2014. Registered Nurses in master’s/post-master’s nurse practitioner programs or Nurse Practitioners obtaining doctoral preparation are eligible to apply. Criteria for application include

- Registered Nurse licensed to practice in the State of Texas
- Resident of Texas
- Completion of at least 25% of an accredited program
- Letter of verification of enrollment from Program Director
- Minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0,
- Regular or Student member of Texas Nurse Practitioners.

Each scholarship shall be a one-time monetary award given directly to the individuals selected.

Copies of the requirements, application, and reference forms may be obtained through the Texas Nurse Practitioner website: www.texasnp.org. Completed applications must be received by July 15, 2014
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