



Colorado
CHAPTER

Cardiology in Colorado

Fall 2014



**Don't Miss Our
2014 Colorado Chapter
Annual Meeting**

**November 7 - 9, 2014
at The Broadmoor**

Register Today

[Click here for our program Agenda](#)

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Has CMS Initiated a RAC Audit of Your Data Since August 14, 2014?

If so, the ACC wants to know about it! Please email your name and the date the audit was initiated to Lisa Goldstein at LGoldstein@acc.org or call her in ACC Regulatory Affairs at 1-800-253.4636.



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President's Corner

David A. Rosenbaum, MD, FACC



Somehow another summer has come and gone and the chill of fall is in the air. The familiar routine for many of us with children in school and homework fills our evenings and weekends. I suppose I will be surprised when the nest is empty and wonder how it all happened so quickly!?

Taking advantage of our ACC chapter and national offerings is one way to improve our professional efficiency. No doubt, many of you already know and utilize educational offerings through ACC national. What a great resource it is! Later this year, there will be a total website redesign for ACC national that will improve your user experience.

The weekend of November 7-9, your Colorado ACC chapter will host an educational meeting in Colorado Springs at The Broadmoor resort. We hope you can join us for a great chance to rekindle friendships and make new ones with colleagues in our great state. It promises to be an interesting weekend and we hope to make this an annual event. Feedback is welcomed whether you attend or not so that we can improve the meeting and attendance.

Finally, you should be proud that the CO ACC chapter was so well represented at the September ACC legislative conference in Washington, D.C. Our delegation met with nearly all members of congress and the senate during our day on the hill helping underline the cardiology community's commitment to quality care and stewardship of healthcare dollars. We pointed out the ACC's involvement in registries that facilitate quality care in the inpatient and outpatient arenas. A most exciting aspect of our delegation was that we had one FIT, two nurses, a cardiac surgeon and three cardiologists representing our state. It was a great event and we hope you all will consider attending next year! Meeting with your representatives when they are in district is another excellent way to be impactful in this political world. Participation in our ACC PAC is another great way to support the political arm of healthcare reform so that our patients and our challenges are heard. If you are not at the table, you are on the menu!! That is all for this installment, and I want to personally invite you to join us at our educational meeting in November!



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2014 Legislative Conference

Fellow-in-training Howard Julien, MD, and Nicolas W. Shammass, MD, FACC, [interviewed Sen. Charle Grassley \(R-IA\)](#) last week while on Capitol Hill during ACC's Legislative Conference. Grassley weighed in on funding for graduate medical education and research, practice stability, Sustainable Growth Rate repeal, and the In-Office Ancillary Services Exception, and encouraged cardiovascular professionals to engage with lawmakers year round. Visit the [FITs on the Go video blog](#) for additional coverage of Legislative Conference.

The Importance of Responding to Surveys



We all receive them. We usually delete them.

However: DID YOU KNOW that by NOT taking time to weigh in, our reimbursement rates and regulatory constraints are out of our control?

PLEASE be sure to review emails that we as a Chapter or ACC national send you, and make them a priority.

Vote for Your State's New President and Cardiovascular Team State Liaison

Elections for the 2014 Board of Governors (BOG) and Cardiovascular Team State Liaisons will be held Oct. 22 – Nov. 17. Elected representatives will bring local needs to national attention, create new initiatives, develop quality, advocacy, and educational opportunities, and expand the value of membership. To learn which states will be holding elections and for more information about the election process, visit CardioSource.org/Elections. Official results will be announced after the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 8.



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Sunshine Act Update

Reporting of Sunshine Act data from August 1 through December 31, 2013 went public September 30 2014. **Be sure to search and check YOUR data at www.cms.gov/openpayments.**

New 2014 Guidelines for Patients with NSTEMI-ACS

The ACC and AHA on Sept. 23 released the new 2014 Guideline for the Management of Patients With Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes (NSTEMI-ACS). The guideline has a new name and new terminology that reflect current ways of thinking about this frequent and serious cardiac condition, and is the first full revision since the 2007 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Management of Patients with Unstable Angina and Non-ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (NSTEMI) and subsequent focused updates. [Click here to read more.](#)

ACC Offers Valuable Education Without Leaving Your OFFICE!

[Coding Changes, ICD-10 Implementation and Final Rule Details](#)

Webinars!

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on CardioSource.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information here.

To access them, you must have a CardioSource.org log-in and use the confirmation code and webinar access link emailed to you once you. Questions? Contact ACC's Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603, toll free to 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or via email to resource@acc.org



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ACC's MOC Hub

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) implemented changes to its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program for board-certified internists on January 1, 2014. The ACC and other members of the internal medicine community received a letter from the ABIM Board of Directors responding to a number of the concerns previously outlined by ACC and other professional organizations regarding the revised requirements for the ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. In this letter ABIM committed to further changes in the MOC process to address these concerns - read the [ACC in Touch](#) blog to learn more.

The College is continuing our efforts to educate our members about the new requirements and provide them the tools and resources necessary to help them meet these requirements as efficiently as possible. The ACC has created an MOC Hub with details about ABIM's current MOC program to inform and help ACC members navigate the changes. [Learn more here.](#)

ACC Launches Public Hospital Profiles and Hospital Search Tool

The ACC has launched a public-facing hospital database and search tool that enables patients to find and compare hospitals in their area based on the cardiac services they provide and important information related to the care they give. Now, all hospitals participating in the NCDR have a Hospital Profile on CardioSmart.org, the ACC's patient education and empowerment website. Through these profiles, patients, caregivers and other stakeholders are able to search hospitals based on specific criteria (location, hospital name, services provided) and learn about every participating hospital's quality measurement efforts through the NCDR. The establishment of Hospital Profiles ensures that patients receive credible information about hospitals participating in the NCDR. For more information about this effort, visit [NCDR.com](#).

To find your hospital's profile, visit [CardioSmart.org/FindaHospital](#).



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New Deadline for CMS Hardship Application

CMS has re-opened the window to apply to avoid 2015 payment adjustments. Medicare providers who are non-compliant in attaining meaningful use and would like to request an exemption from planned Medicare payment adjustments in 2015, must complete and submit an application form. CMS will review the applications and make a determination about each provider's eligibility for a hardship exception. **The NEW deadline is 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014.**

Physicians who are eligible for the hardship exception are those who have never been a meaningful user to date. Please see the links below for the official message and application.

[Hardship Exception Extension Application](#)

[Hardship Exception Application Extension Message](#)

[You can find more information here.](#)

If a provider is eligible to participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, they must demonstrate meaningful use to avoid a payment adjustment in either the Medicare EHR Incentive Program or in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, depending on their eligibility.

In 2009, Congress mandated payment adjustments be applied to Medicare eligible professionals who are not meaningful users of Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology under the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. These payment adjustments are set to be implemented on January 1, 2015 for Medicare eligible professionals. Medicaid eligible professionals who can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and do not bill Medicare are not subject to these payment adjustments.

MARCH 14 - 16 2015
SAN DIEGO
CALIFORNIA

Early Bird Registration
Ends Oct. 22!
Register Early and Save Up to \$200!

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