NEWS YOU CAN USE
Tools that are available for you to use from JACC.org
PAGE 3 - 4

ACC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
PAGE 5

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!! THE ANNUAL MEETING IS NEXT WEEK! COME ON DOWN!
Dec 7th-9th 2017 3RD ANNUAL HEART FAILURE SUMMIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH UCHEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS
MORE DETAILS ON THE UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE
CONTENTS

NEWSLETTER

3 NEWS YOU CAN USE
5 ACC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
6 CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM
7 LEADERSHIP ALERT
8 UPCOMING EVENTS
9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE WILL YOU BE NEXT WEEK?

ANNUAL MEETING
7-9TH DEC
ACC Leadership Tackles Prior Authorization

For years, prior authorization has impeded patient access and burdened cardiovascular practice management. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, chair of the Board of Governors, and Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC, chair of ACC’s Membership Committee, recently co-authored a piece in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* breaking down prior authorization burdens and offering action items for reducing physician pressure. “This is one piece in the puzzle to find an answer to prior authorization challenges. However, to be successful on a larger scale for the entire medical community, insurers, physicians, care team members, practice administrators, and lawmakers need to work together to find a solution that ultimately saves time, saves money, and—most importantly—saves lives,” write Wilson and Shor. Read the full article [here](#). The ACC has developed a [Prior Authorization Reporting Tool (PARTool)](https://www.acc.org/PARTool) to help your practice with data collection and support the ACC’s efforts at the state and national level to address prior authorization issues. With this data, the ACC hopes persuade payers and state insurance commissioners to minimize, or even eliminate, some of their prior authorization requirements. Access your ACC’s [PARTool here](https://www.acc.org/PARTool). Go to [ACC.org/PARTool](https://www.acc.org/PARTool) to learn more.
Shared Decision Making Infographic Now Available

ACC’s CardioSmart recently launched a new Decision Aids section to help patients understand what decision aids are, how to use them and where to find them. This section highlights several resources, including a new infographic on Shared Decision Making to guide patients through the process of making a decision when they need to weight in treatment options or the path forward is unclear. Just like the other CardioSmart infographic posters, this infographic can be downloaded for free and used as point-of-care graphics for your waiting and exam rooms. For more tools and resources on this subject, visit CardioSmart.org/Decisions.

Stay In Touch With the ACC via Social Media

Stay in touch with the ACC and the latest clinical and advocacy news through ACCinTouch. ACCinTouch connects ACC members and those interested in cardiovascular news through popular social networking channels like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. Join each of these networks to connect with ACC members and those interested in cardiology. In addition to the ACC’s main Twitter profile @ACCinTouch, the College also has a channel dedicated to advocacy-related news (@Cardiology), education (@ACCCardioEd), and quality (@ACCCVQuality). CardioSmart, ACC’s patient education and support program, also has patient-centered cardiovascular news available through Facebook, Twitter (@CardioSmart), and YouTube. For more information about ACC’s social media channels, visit ACC.org/ACCinTouch.

ACC Archived Webinars

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on ACC.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information at www.acc.org/WebinarsOndemand. Questions? Contact ACC’s Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603 or 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or resource@acc.org.
I had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Legislative Conference in Washington DC on September 13th, 2017.

The ACC met to discuss the current bills on Capitol Hill and issues affecting our cardiac practices. We then went out to visit our representatives in the House and Senate offices.

I think the thing that really stood out is how well the aides were educated on our issues. Each one, without exception, knew which bills we were talking about and the status of that bill. It seemed last time we had to explain ourselves more to bring them up to speed on our issues,

Great job Lucas and the rest of the team on educating the staff of the representatives and senators we met with!

I certainly felt heard and like they were on our team with these 3 issues we brought forward.

Our FIT- Andy Levy was excellent with is delivery of the problem with EHR demands on physician time- they could really identify with his points. I would like to thank the Colorado ACC Chapter for making this trip possible. I would strongly urge other Cardiovascular Team members of the ACC to apply for this annual conference and learn how your voice can make a difference for professionals and patients alike!

Looking forward to going up again!

Nancy Lundy, RN, MSN, ANP-C, AACC
Cardiac Diagnostics, HF Committee Chair
Heart Failure Clinic NP
Parker Adventist Hospital
The Cardiovascular Team is becoming more robust. We are presently in the works of creating a CVT executive team. The goals are to better represent the various professions of our team, recruit new members, provide more education, have newsletters, and provide information on the politics that impact the care we provide. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact me.

I am proud to say the CVT symposium in September was very well attended by both ACC members and non-members. We had 16 vendors who provided financial support. The feedback about the speakers was phenomenal. Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual ACC CVT symposium on September 22, 2018.

It is with much excitement that I spread the word that Jolin Honas NP, AACC, has been elected as the new CVT Liaison. I will work side by side with her in 2018 as she transitions to this role.

I hope to see you at the upcoming ACC programs. Please contact me with questions, ideas, or interest in becoming a member of the ACC CVT executive team. Heather.mazzola@uchealth.org

Please have happy holidays!  Heather Mazzola ACNP, AACC.
LEADERSHIP ALERT

INFORMATIONAL

CMS Officially Cancels EPM and Cardiac Rehab Incentive Payment Models

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a final rule officially canceling the Episode Payment Models (EPMs) for AMI and CABG and Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) Incentive Payment Model and rescinding the regulations establishing these models, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

In releasing the final rule, CMS stressed that “value-based payment methodologies will play an essential role in lowering costs and improving quality of care, which will be necessary in order to maintain Medicare’s fiscal solvency” and reiterated its commitment to developing value-based models that would allow for Advanced APM participation in 2018 and beyond. “We believe that focusing on the development of different bundled payment models and engaging more providers in these models is the best way to drive health system change while minimizing provider burden and maintaining patient access to care,” the Agency stated.

Specifically, CMS acknowledged the comments it received on the proposed cancellation rule and noted agreement “with the premise cited by commenters that the CR Incentive Payment Model could provide an opportunity to collect evidence and may support provision of an under-utilized yet effective intervention.” However, the Agency went on to say: “Due to the manner in which the regulations guiding the cardiac EPMs were interwoven with those of the CR Incentive Payment Model, we do not believe it would be feasible to continue the mandatory CR Incentive Payment Model alone at this time since we are cancelling the EPMs and rescinding all of the associated regulations. However, as we stated in the proposed rule, as we further develop the Innovation Center’s portfolio of models, we may revisit the concept of a model with a focus on cardiac rehabilitation and, if we do, will consider stakeholder feedback.”

The ACC’s comments were among the 85 received by CMS. The College will continue to work with CMS to develop further opportunities for the cardiology community to participate in APM models. In a separate comment letter to CMS on the future direction of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), the College outlined support for increasing participation in APMs, physician specialty models and expanding the mandate of the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee to include APMs for Medicaid and CHIP. The letter also supports models that give flexibility in cost sharing for high value services, such as cardiac rehabilitation.
UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC

7th-9th  3RD ANNUAL HEART FAILURE SUMMIT IN CONJUNCTION WITH UCHEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS
Location:  Broadmoor in Colorado Springs | 1 Lake Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 | Registration $250 | Book your hotel NOW before it sells out CLICK HERE! REGISTER HERE! Stay tuned by CLICKING HERE!

FEB

10th-14th  27TH ANNUAL CARDIOVASCULAR CONFERENCE
Location:  Park Hyatt Beaver Creek | 1360 East Thomas Place, Beaver Creek, CO 81620 | For more information CLICK HERE! | Stay tuned by CLICKING HERE!

SEP

22nd  SAVE THE DATE - CO ACC CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM SYMPOSIUM Location:  JW Marriott - Cherry Creek | 150 Clayton Ln, Denver, CO 80206 | Time: 7:15AM - 5PM
Stay tuned by CLICKING HERE!
2nd Annual CV Team Symposium
sponsored by COACC in conjunction with the 27th Annual Cardiovascular Conference
America's Premier Meeting on Innovations in Cardiovascular Medicine

Saturday, February 10th, 2018
12 - 6 PM

For more information and to review the brochure CLICK HERE!