



## Mission Statement:

To promote high-quality, cost-effective medical care that is physician driven, financially sustainable and valued by health care stakeholders.

*Your Link to CSMS-IPA News*

February  
2010

Volume 9  
No. 1

# Connections

*SERVING THE NEEDS OF INDEPENDENT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1986*

## Medical Director Update

*Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM)*

*By Ken Sacks, M.D.*

Although nobody can accurately predict the future of health care in the United States, one thing is clear; it will not be the status quo. It is likely that there will be reporting demands which can only be fulfilled by the adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT). Primary Care practices will be pressured to transform to Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH), or, as the IPA prefers, Patient Centered Practice Models (PCPM). There is good reason to believe that the PCPM physicians will have a distinct advantage as Health Care Reform evolves. The CSMS-IPA is committed to bringing those advantages forward and to assisting practices in moving toward a PCPM over time.

One example of this commitment is the availability of the American College of Physicians Medical Home Builder (MHB<sup>®</sup>) software. This software product will be provided free to any primary care practice that chooses to opt-in to the IPA's PCPM program. Use of the MHB<sup>®</sup> software will educate and focus physicians on the merits and prerequisites inherent in a patient centered medical home and will empower the practice to better position themselves to achieve recognition of their practice by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). For more information on this opportunity, please visit the CSMS-IPA website. For more information on the PCMH Recognition program sponsored by NCQA (Physician Practice Connections<sup>®</sup> - Patient-Centered Medical Home<sup>™</sup>) please visit the NCQA website at [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org).

Don't stay where you are, you may never catch up.

## The CSMS-IPA Announces Agreement with ConnectiCare

*Launching a Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative*

The CSMS-IPA and ConnectiCare are pleased to announce a new agreement for the coordination of health care services to ConnectiCare's VIP Medicare Advantage plan members in New London County.

The program will work through the CSMS-IPA Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM) network of physicians in New London County. This "medical home" approach to the coordination of a patient's care seeks to manage a members' medical care in such a way that costs are controlled and quality is improved. This is a team-based model of care led by a primary care physician who will coordinate patient care with other team members to maximize outcomes. This approach is expected to be an integral component of any reform effort aimed at improving the healthcare system by placing emphasis on the patient/physician relationship and incorporating wellness, prevention, coordination and patient education.

David D. Thompson, Jr., M.D., CSMS-IPA President, comments, "In other areas of the country the medical home model has shown to be a highly effective way to improve quality and care coordination for the benefit of the patient. We look forward to doing that here."

If you are interested in being part of this exciting new venture, or want to learn more about PCPM, contact the CSMS-IPA at [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com).

# CSMS-IPA Patient-Centered Practice Model Network

*Are You Part of This Evolving Network?*



The CSMS-IPA Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM) network is currently comprised of 479 Connecticut physicians (both primary care and specialists) throughout the state. The PCPM is the CSMS-IPA model for addressing the changing healthcare environment with a “Medical Home” management approach to care. This opportunity is available for all CSMS-IPA physician members. PCP and Specialist Physicians participating within the PCPM network and CSMS-IPA payer agreements may be eligible for additional funding through care management fees (for PCP’s) as well as contract bonus opportunities.

If you would like to participate in this exciting opportunity, you may obtain opt-in documents as well as program descriptions and manuals on the CSMS-IPA website at [www.csms-ipa.com](http://www.csms-ipa.com) or by e-mailing a request to [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com). The CSMS-IPA is committed to expanding the PCPM network throughout the state while developing payer contracts that partner with the dedicated physicians involved in the PCPM practices.

## CSMS-IPA/WellCare Agreement

*Initial network development efforts reveal success*

The CSMS-IPA Board of Directors approved an agreement with WellCare of Connecticut, Inc. in the fall of 2009 which included assisting in the enhancement of WellCare’s current Medicare Advantage network. This effort has proven extremely successful. The CSMS-IPA has helped WellCare to increase their network by over 400 physicians. The CSMS-IPA agreement with WellCare is for their Medicare Advantage program and the CSMS-IPA provides PCP’s who have joined the Patient Centered Practice Model (PCPM) network with a \$10 per member per month (pmpm) care management fee in addition to opportunities for surplus distributions to both primary care and specialist physicians. For more information on this agreement or to join the WellCare network and work with other dedicated IPA physicians through the IPA’s PCPM program, please contact the CSMS-IPA at [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com).

## Health Net Fee Schedule

*Modification effective March 1, 2010*

The CSMS-IPA and Health Net are pleased to announce a modification to the physician fee schedule, which represents an aggregate 2.25% increase, effective for dates of service on and after March 1, 2010 for services provided to members enrolled in Health Net Commercial programs. The CSMS-IPA has ensured that the Health Net fee schedule will remain in effect for Health Net Commercial Programs through February, 2011.

A representative fee schedule, listing the allowances for the vast majority of CPT codes for each specialty, was recently mailed to all CSMS-IPA participating physicians and is also available on the CSMS-IPA web site. Additional codes are also available online by simply logging in to the secure portion of the CSMS-IPA website ([www.csms-ipa.com](http://www.csms-ipa.com)) and choosing the link for **Fee Schedule**. If you have any questions, please email the CSMS-IPA at [info@csms-ipa.com](mailto:info@csms-ipa.com). The CSMS-IPA appreciates your participation and looks forward to continuing to serve you in the future.