



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

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Connections

SERVING THE NEEDS OF INDEPENDENT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1986

Medical Director Update

By Ken Sacks, M.D.

Emergency Room Use Initiative

One of the recurring health care issues seen on a national level is the non-urgent use of Emergency rooms (ER). Analysis of ER data have shown that anywhere from 25 to 40 percent of ER visits are for diagnoses which can be well managed within the physicians office.

Such inappropriate ER use does not constitute quality or efficient medical care. This trend has resulted in crowded ER facilities which then have difficulty in providing timely care to true emergencies. Often, the primary physician is unaware that their patient has sought care in an ER.

The CSMS-IPA has initiated an educational program which is designed to address this problem. Selected physicians will receive data about their patients who have received ER services. The information will include the date of the visit and the primary diagnosis. Look for this in the near future.

Generic Prescription Information

Additional detail has been added to the Generic Prescription look up tables on the CSMS-IPA website. If you have not visited the site to view your information, now may be a good time do to do.

Full year 2008 data with a three-year look back (2006-2008) is now available.

How can the CSMS-IPA Help Meet Your Needs?

The IPA provides value added services to physicians so that they can enhance their profitability while improving quality of care for their patients. We have developed a survey tool for your feedback on the support the IPA can provide to your practice.

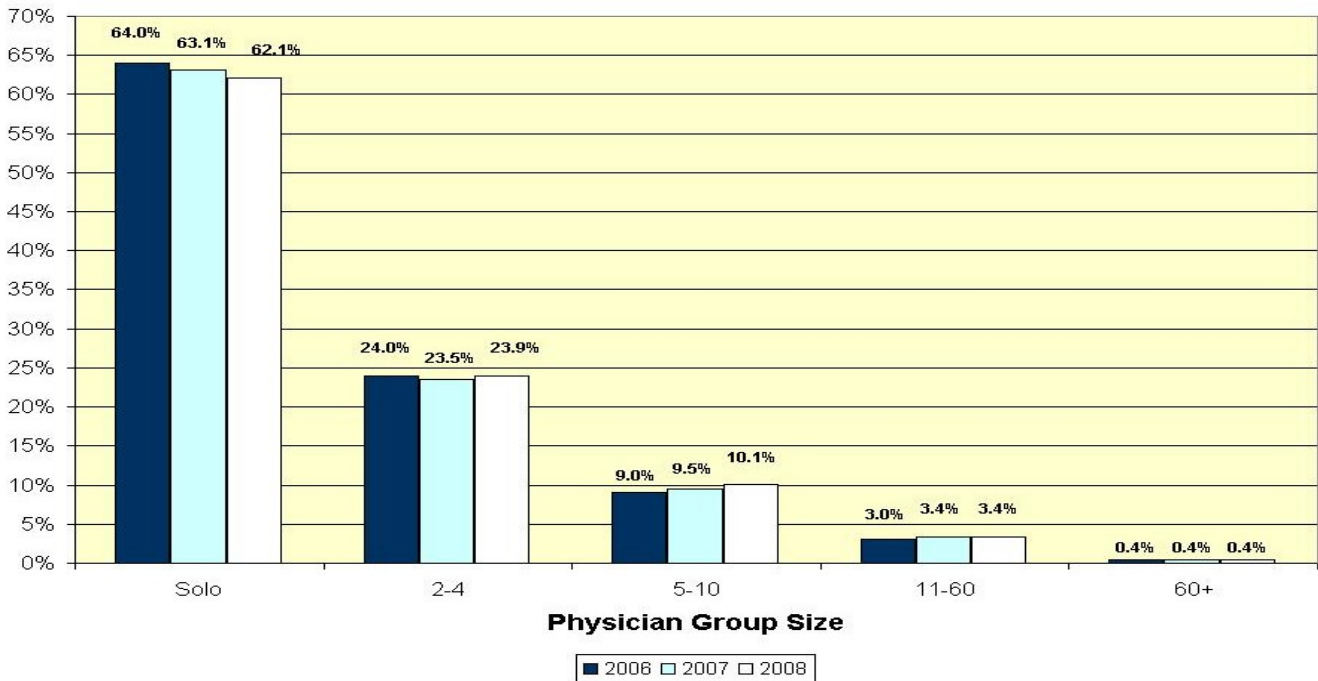
Please go to the CSMS-IPA website at www.csms-ipa.com and click on the link to Surveys in the left-hand menu. Then choose the appropriate survey to complete.

Win a \$50 Gas Card!

The CSMS-IPA is committed to staying in touch with our members. We strive to keep you informed about any developments affecting Connecticut physician practices, industry news and CSMS-IPA promotions and services. Please provide the office manager/administrator contact information for your group and you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gas card.

By providing this information, you will help us to serve you better and improve the flow of information to your practice. The security of your contact information is of utmost importance. The information collected is used only by the CSMS-IPA and will not be shared with other companies. Information can be submitted online by going to www.csms-ipa.com and clicking on the link for Surveys in the left-hand menu. Then choose the appropriate survey to complete.

There are currently 2,327 physician practices in the CSMS-IPA. The graph below represents the percentage of IPA practices that fall into the defined group sizes listed below. Each grouping represents approximately 20% of the IPA's 7,052 physicians.



Healthcare Technology: *The CSMS-IPA Can Help You Take Advantage of Incentives Today*

Now, more than ever, is the time to consider taking advantage of the advances in healthcare technology available to your practice. From simple registries to fully functional electronic health record systems, a physician can not only implement systems to help improve clinical quality and practice efficiencies, but at the same time, earn “bonus incentives” from the federal government. Here’s a summary of three programs you can consider today that may earn you extra money tomorrow.

Electronic Prescribing (eRx)

If implemented properly, a physician can earn up to an additional 2% of their Medicare allowed charges this year and next; 1% in 2011 and 2012; and, .5% in 2013. Starting in 2012, however, failure to use an approved eRx system may cost you 1% in 2012; 1.5% in 2013 and starting in 2014 up to 2% of your Medicare allowed charges. Qualifying is relatively easy. It requires a physician to use a qualified eRx system and to successfully report on at least 50% of applicable cases during the reporting period.

PQRI

Medicare has established a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program that may earn each professional an incentive payment of 2% of their total allowed charges for calendar year 2009.

Stimulus Incentives for Electronic Health Records (EHR)

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress and signed in to law this year, physicians who accept Medicare can receive up to \$44,000 over five years for the implementation and “meaningful” use of a qualified EHR. While all of the details of this program are still being finalized, it is clear that starting in 2011; a physician who has at least \$24,000 in allowed Medicare charges may begin earning the full amount of the incentive program. There will be certain reporting and usage requirements and the later those physicians wait to implement an EHR, the less in incentive payments they will receive. And, just as in the eRx program, physicians who fail to implement an EHR by 2015 will be subject to increasing penalties.

To learn more about these and other healthcare technology opportunities visit the CSMS-IPA website or contact the IPA at info@csms-ipa.com.

Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Beyond
eRx	2%	2%	1%	1%	.5%	None
PQRI	2%	?	?	?	?	?
EHR	0	0	\$18,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	Up to \$6,000

The CSMS-IPA is dedicated to helping you take advantage of these opportunities.