



Vascular Society of New Jersey
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MONTHLY REPORT February 2008

Watch for the VSNJ Spring Annual Meeting brochure....in your mail! And sign up today for this exciting conference on March 12.

From the President

Jonathan Levison, MD

The recent closing of two hospitals in the Newark area are a testament to the importance of Hospitals subscribing to good business practices while providing care to all that enter their doors. First and foremost, a Hospitals emphasis has and should continue to be, to provide efficient and effective care. Unfortunately, the number of uninsured patients continues to grow, which is making it increasingly more difficult for hospitals to maintain fiscal viability. Without this viability it will become more difficult for all of us to practice medicine. Because of ongoing losses hospitals may become unable to provide “state of the art” services utilizing the most recent technologies.

At a recent Hospital Medical Staff Meeting the issue of financial loss that occurs while caring for the uninsured was discussed. One of the many concerns discussed at this meeting was the imbalance between increasingly expensive technology that is utilized while rendering services for the growing number of uninsured. Although there is a Charity Care allocation from the State to Hospitals for these services, this in many Hospitals is insufficient. Industry has somewhat insulated themselves from these ongoing problems.

Hospitals have often acquiesced to the physician with regards to preference for equipment for many of the newer cost-intensive procedures we perform on a daily basis. For this reason I believe that we can be effective in acting as liaisons between industry and hospital administration in creating agreements that would have industry share these economic losses that occur for equipment utilized in caring for the uninsured. When one considers the profitability that these companies enjoy, it is hard to imagine that they would be unwilling to participate. An appreciation for the symbiotic relationship that occurs between the physician and hospital cannot be understated.

From the Statehouse

Beverly J. Lynch

The 213th Legislature is moving into full swing, with committee hearings and voting sessions scheduled through April. New committee has been named; new leaders elected. And thousands of bills introduced. If you're interested in seeing the list of bills being tracked for your

association, don't hesitate to contact me at blynch@blynchassociates.com and I can email them to you. Remember, however, that new bills are introduced every session day, so the list grows longer every week.

The (long awaited) Commission on Rationalizing Healthcare Resources' final report was released today at a press conference by Dr. Uwe Reinhardt, chair of the commission and an internationally recognized expert in health economics. The report was commissioned through an executive order by Governor Corzine to help New Jersey legislators and policy makers address the financial issues regarding the state's healthcare delivery system.

View the entire report at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/rhc/finalreport/index.shtml>

An update - the PIP bill (A-1821/Cohen) was supported and released today by the Assembly Financial Institutions Committee. As in the past, the insurance industry panel gave data on skyrocketing rates for physician services and facility fees and asked the committee to hold the bill pending the outcome of the legal action. MSNJ's Eileen Kean countered several of their arguments. DOBI offered an update on the status of the talks/negotiations and regulations. Chairman Cohen, sponsor of the measure, was forceful in his support of the bill, and urged all parties to continue to talk. In the end, the two new Republican members abstained, but all Democrats voted it out of committee.

The chiropractors are pushing a bill that would counter the recent court decision that prohibited their work on extremities. The bill was released on Monday January 28 from the Senate Commerce Committee. Physician and physical therapist organizations continue to work on amendments to ensure no new scope of practice is gained.

Coming up ...

2008

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| Wednesday | March 12 | Annual Scientific Meeting Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ (NOTE: New Location!) |
| Thursday | October 30 | VSNJ Annual Fall Meeting Highlawn Pavilion, West Orange, NJ |

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