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## MONTHLY REPORT May 2008

### **From the President**

**Gary A. Drascher, MD, RVT, FACS**

Our next Board meeting is May 8th. If you have any issues you would like the society to address please let me know. Email: [gdrascher@aol.com](mailto:gdrascher@aol.com).

### **New Jersey Regulatory Update**

**Deb Lienhardt, Esq.**

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### **New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners' Cultural Competency Requirements**

The New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners recently adopted a regulation requiring all New Jersey licensed physicians and podiatrists to complete six (6) hours of cultural competency training before their next biennial registration (the "New Regulation"). The New Regulation was adopted pursuant to a statute enacted in 2005 that was passed in an effort to eliminate the race and gender-based disparities in the provision of health care in New Jersey. As discussed more fully below, depending on when the physician or podiatrist was licensed, the six (6) hours of training may be part of, or in addition to, the 100 hours of continuing medical education ("CME") required as a condition for biennial registration.

The New Regulation requires that each college of medicine in the state provide cultural competency training as one of its required courses. Specifically, completing the cultural competency course must be a condition for receiving a diploma from the college. For purposes of the New Regulation, a college of medicine includes a college of podiatry. The New Regulation also requires that cultural competency training be offered as a CME course by sponsors accredited, recognized or approved by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the Council of Podiatric Medical Education. In order to qualify as cultural competency training, both medical colleges and CME courses must, either through workshops, classroom instruction, the internet, or other venues, provide a course that at a minimum, addresses the following:

- a context for the training, common definitions of cultural competence, race, ethnicity, and culture and tools for self assessment;
- an appreciation for the traditions and beliefs of diverse patient populations, at multiple levels - as individuals, in families and as part of a larger community;
- an understanding of the impact that stereotyping can have on medical decision-making;

- strategies for recognizing patterns of health care disparities and eliminating factors influencing them;
- approaches to enhance cross-cultural clinical skills, such as those relating to history-taking, problem solving and promoting patient compliance; and
- techniques to deal with language barriers and other communication needs, including working with interpreters.

As referenced above, depending on when the practitioner was licensed, the six (6) hours of cultural competency training may be included in, or in addition to, the 100 hours of CME credits required as a condition of licensure renewal. For physicians who were licensed to practice before March 24, 2005, the six (6) hours of cultural competency training must be in addition to the 100 hours of required CME credit. Conversely, podiatrists licensed before March 24, 2005 may use the cultural competency training to fulfill part of their CME requirement. Similarly, all physicians and podiatrists licensed after March 24, 2005 may use the cultural competency training to fulfill part of their CME requirements. Thus, more experienced physicians have an additional six (6) hours of required CME credits in order to renew their licenses. Please note, however, that the cultural competency training CME requirement applies only to physicians and podiatrists who did not receive instruction in cultural competency as part of their medical school curriculum. Also note that physicians licensed after June 30, 2007 and podiatrists licensed after October 31, 2007 have until the end of the next complete renewal cycle following their licensure to complete the cultural competency training while physicians and podiatrists licensed before these dates must complete the cultural competency training as a condition of their next licensure renewal.

**New Format for New Jersey Prescription Blanks**

As of October 1, 2008, all New Jersey Prescription Blanks must be pre-printed with the prescriber or healthcare facility National Provider Identifier (“NPI”) and also be consecutively numbered. The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs has approved a number of vendors to ensure the production of an adequate supply of New Jersey Prescription Blanks. For a list of approved vendors, please see <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/njpb.pdf>.

The New Jersey Office of Drug Control reports that all physicians’ names must be printed on the front of the script (and names can no longer be printed on the back of the script), in seven-point font or greater. The generally approved imprint should include the following information: the practice name, the practice’s name and telephone number, each physician’s name, each physicians’ license number, NPI number and (optional) DEA number. A medical practice’s NPI number does not need to be printed on the script (note that this is different than the requirement that healthcare facilities include their NPI number).

If you would like additional information or if you have any questions, please refer to the Division of Consumer Affairs’ website at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm>.

**Coming up ...**

**2008**

Thursday 6:30 pm	October 30	Fall Dinner/Membership Meeting Highlawn Pavilion, West Orange
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**2009**

Wednesday 11:00 am	March 4	Annual Scientific Meeting Nanina’s In The Park, Belleville
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