



**Vascular Society of New Jersey**  
202 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608  
tel: (609) 392-7553  
fax: (609) 392-2664  
website: [VascularSocietyNJ.org](http://VascularSocietyNJ.org)  
e-mail: [Membership@VascularSocietyNJ.org](mailto:Membership@VascularSocietyNJ.org)

---

## MONTHLY REPORT October 2007

**From the President**

**Jonathan Levison, MD**

At a recent VSNJ Board Meeting objectives of the Society were discussed. These included providing a forum for Vascular Surgeons in the State to exchange information, both clinical and political. In addition, the meetings provide an opportunity to get together socially and share ideas. There were concerns raised at the meeting that there are practicing Vascular Surgeons in the State that are unaware that the Society even exists. We have attempted to identify these individuals by reviewing medical staff directories in all hospitals in the State. If current members are aware of any potential candidates for membership it would be appreciated if their names could be forwarded to us.

One function of the Society is to serve as a disciple, if you will, when it comes to disseminating initiatives that are being instituted by our National Societies. As you are all well aware, there is currently a significant “divide” in our leadership, between both the SVS and the ABVS. I will not begin to pretend to have any insight into the core issues that have caused this conflict. Unfortunately this divisiveness does not serve us well, as the total number of Vascular Surgeons is small when compared to those other specialties performing similar procedures. Major conflicts amongst us such as these, only serve to potentially dilute our message.

Topics of interest for presentation at the annual spring meeting were discussed as well. If there are specific subject matters that members would like to see presented, please forward those to us as well.

---

**HOT OFF THE PRESSES! Good news re PIP fee schedule**

On Friday, September 28, **the Appellate Division granted the physician’s request to stay the implementation of the new PIP fee schedule rule.**

WolfBlock will now litigate the claim that the Department of Banking and Insurance failed to implement the fee schedule in accordance with New Jersey law. The length of the stay and the timing of the litigation will be in accordance with a schedule set by the Appellate Division. It is likely that the appeal will proceed on one of two tracks: either 1) in the normal course, which will

mean briefs will be filed over the next approximately 3-5 months, after which oral argument will be scheduled, most likely in the spring; or 2) on an expedited basis, in which case we can expect oral argument in 2-3 months. It will not, however, go on an expedited basis unless requested by the Attorney General and agreed to by the Court.

**Until further order of the court there will be no modification to the current PIP fee system.**

There are several physician organizations helping to fund this project: Alliance for Quality Care, Inc., the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons, Orthopaedic Surgeons of New Jersey, the New Jersey Interventional Pain Society, Atlantic Orthopedic Associates, LLC, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers and the New Jersey State Society of Anesthesiologists.

We will continue to update you regarding the status of this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns.

Mark E. Manigan  
WolfBlock Brach Eichler  
101 Eisenhower Parkway  
Roseland, New Jersey 07068  
Tel - 973-403-3132  
Fax - 973- 618-5532  
E - [mmanigan@wolfblock.com](mailto:mmanigan@wolfblock.com)  
Web - [www.wolfblock.com](http://www.wolfblock.com)

## ***VASCULAR SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY***

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, November 1, 2007**

**New Location**

**The Manor**

*West Orange, New Jersey*

**Cocktails and Dinner**

***\$85 for VSNJ members***

***\$100 for guests***

***Residents and Fellows in Training Complimentary***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Keynote Address**

**"Legal Issues in Hemodialysis Access Surgery"**

**Larry Scher, MD**

*Professor of Clinical Surgery Montefiore Medical Center  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine*

What's happening on State Street? It's been relatively quiet in Trenton since the Legislature left town following the adoption of the budget on June 21. They're not expected back to work until after the November 6 elections – when all 120 members of the Legislature are on the ballot.

Between November 6 and January 7, 2008, the Legislature goes into so-called “lame duck” session, when they work hard to move bills to the Governor's desk before the session adjourns. All bills not on the Governor's desk by midnight, January 7, go into the trash. There are currently over 8,000 bill in the “hopper.” The new two-year legislative session convenes the very next day.

Despite many new names on the ballot, it's not expected that the majority will change hands – with Democrats maintaining control of both the Assembly and the Senate.

The physician lobbyists continue hard at work on several issues of importance to the health care community, including (but not limited to):

- The Board of Nursing regulations which impact certified registered nurse anesthetists and the method in which anesthesia is delivered in this State;
- Care for Psychiatric patients in emergency settings;
- Exploring C-section rates in New Jersey;
- Universal Health Care at the state level;
- The work of the Rationalizing Health Care Commission (the so-called Hospital Closure Commission);
- Review of the newly released report from the Medical Care Availability Task Force (formed in response to the medical malpractice crisis) – for copies of this report, go to:

[http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division\\_insurance/pdfs/mcatf\\_finalreport\\_8\\_2007.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division_insurance/pdfs/mcatf_finalreport_8_2007.pdf)

- Beginning to look at ways to improve physician reimbursement for Medicaid care;
- Scope of practice legislation being supported by physical therapists and chiropractors,
- Etc. Etc. Etc.

This represents just a portion of the issues we're working on today. If you have any questions or comments on any legislative/regulatory activity in New Jersey, don't hesitate to contact me at [blynch@blynchassociates.com](mailto:blynch@blynchassociates.com).

**New Jersey 2007 Hospital Performance Report Released**

Most of you are already familiar with the State's annual report on the health care quality performance of New Jersey hospitals. Using nationally accepted standards, the report rates the hospitals on how well they are delivering quality treatment to their patients with specific conditions. This year's report demonstrates that New Jersey hospitals have consistently made upward strides in their scores on heart attack, pneumonia and congestive heart failure compared to previously reported scores. Even with the addition of new measures for preventing surgical infections, New Jersey hospitals are scoring, overall, above the national average in providing the proper treatment to their patients with one of these conditions.

For copies and additional information go to: <http://web.doh.state.nj.us/hpr/>

**Coming up in 2007/2008...**

Thursday 6:30 pm	November 1	Fall Dinner/Membership Meeting The Manor, West Orange (NOTE: New Location!)
---------------------	------------	---

**2008**

Wednesday	March 12	Annual Scientific Meeting Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ (NOTE: New Location!)
-----------	----------	--

*If you would like to be removed from this fax distribution list, please call 609-392-7553.*