



**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 2008

From the President

Gary A. Drascher, MD, RVT, FACS

*I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.*

*Douglas Adams (1952-2001)*

Final arrangements are being made for our annual evening dinner meeting.

Save the date: Thursday October 30.

Yaron Sternbach will be speaking about the Albany Vascular Group's experience with endovascular repair of Ruptured Aortic Aneurysms.

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

This meeting is generously co sponsored by Bard and Gore.

Please Thank Mike Seelig and John Snover for their generous support.

Gary Drascher

You are cordially invited to attend the

*VASCULAR SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY  
ANNUAL MEETING*

Thursday, October 30, 2008

6:30

The Highlawn Pavilion  
West Orange, New Jersey

Cocktails and Dinner  
\$85 for VSNJ members

\$100 for guests

Residents and Fellows in Training Complimentary

\*\*\*\*\*

Keynote Address

"Endovascular vs Open Repair of Ruptured Abdominal and Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm"

Yaron Sternbach, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
The Institute for Vascular Health & Disease  
The Vascular Group, PLLC  
Albany, New York

Registration to follow by mail this week

**From the Statehouse**

**Beverly J. Lynch**

The Legislature is back in the swing of things...with committee hearings and voting sessions scheduled between now and mid-December. Assemblyman Gary Schaer (D-Passaic) has been named chairman of the powerful Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, replacing Neil Cohen who resigned in August.

Top priority issues facing the New Jersey physician community include ambulatory surgery center referral legislation, Horizon conversion into a for-profit company, universal health care, legislation permitting assignment of benefits, and expansion of wrongful death.

There is a physician-only fundraiser being held for Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts on Tuesday, December 9. Please mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues on this special evening. Invitations and RSVP information coming out shortly.

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee has released a new bill from Assemblyman Herb Conaway (D-District 7). A-1380, which supplements the "Health Care Quality Act," is intended to reduce the administrative burden and delay, both for providers and their patients. It provides that a health insurance carrier which offers a managed care plan must permit a covered person to receive covered services from a health care provider in its provider network without obtaining a referral from the covered person's primary care physician. The bill is scheduled to receive full Assembly consideration on September 25.

I met on September 25, with new Deputy Commissioner Mary Sibley, who heads up the Medicaid office. Mary was previously health policy director in the McGreevey Administration. I was joined by Claudine Leone, who represents the family physicians, and Laurie Clark, representing the osteopathic physicians. The purpose of our meeting was to reintroduce the physician organizations to her, and discuss the multitude of issues and problems with the Medicaid system. Mary promised to reactivate the Physician's Advisory Group and open up the lines of dialogue between the physicians and the program.

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General - Division of Consumer Affairs

### **NJ Prescription Blanks Changes**

In March 2008, the Division of Consumer Affairs notified you of recent changes to the format of NJ prescription blanks. The regulation was amended to require that prescription blanks be numbered consecutively and that the blanks include the prescriber's or healthcare facility's National Provider Identifier (NPI). By prior notification, these requirements were to be met by October 1, 2008.

The Division has been alerted to the fact that the supply of prescription blanks preprinted to conform to the new requirements may be inadequate to meet the October 1, 2008 deadline. As this may affect a patient's ability to receive reimbursement, the Division is extending the deadline for preprinting until regulations are adopted to address this issue. All prescription blanks are still required to include consecutive numbers, however, you will be permitted to write in or stamp these numbers onto the blanks until regulations are adopted, provided you maintain a system for tracking the consecutive numbers.

For the full statement from the Division of Consumer Affairs, please visit

[www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm) .

### New Jersey Association of Health Plans

The New Jersey Association of Health Plans has put together an updated list of contact information for each of their member's credentialing units

#### Carrier Contact Information to Check on the Status of Provider Credentialing Applications

Aetna:

Call 800-353-1232 for Aetna's national toll free customer service line direct to its Credentialing Customer Service staff.

AmeriChoice of New Jersey:

Providers can first call the NationalCredentialingCenter ("NCC") to see if their application has been received and where it stands in the verification process, that number is 877-842-3210, after which, they can also call the plan to see if the application has been approved by the NCC and/or PAS. NOTE: Please have your tax identification number available. The providers also can contact either the NCC, or Credentialing in regards to missing or expired documents that need to be submitted in order to complete the credentialing process.

AmeriGroup:

Call 732-452-6000 and ask for the Provider Relations or your provider Representative by name.

AmeriHealth:

Call the Credentialing Support Hotline at 866-227-2186 or on the web at: [credentialingsupport@amerihealth.com](mailto:credentialingsupport@amerihealth.com) .

CIGNA:

Call 1.800-88CIGNA (1-800-882-4462) to check on your credentialing status with the CustomerSupportCenter.

HealthNet:

Call Network Operator at 203-225-3921 or visit the web at [www.healthnet.com](http://www.healthnet.com)

Click on Provider Tab

Horizon:

Call 888-345-1235 at Horizon to check on application status and to request an application.

UnitedHealthcare/Oxford Health Plans:After initiating the credentialing process with the National Credentialing Center (NCC) providers may call the United Voice Portal (UVP) number to hear an automated update regarding the credentialing status. To access this information: call 877-842-3210; select Other Professional Services, then Credentialing, then Get Status.

NOTE: Please have your tax identification number

The caller will be prompted to enter the provider's SSN to obtain status.

Providers may also use the UVP line to contact the NCC Customer Service Team to obtain credentialing status updates.

University Health Plans:

Call the Credentialing Department at 732-476-1121

### **From the Department of Health and Senior Services**

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has just released its fifth annual report on health quality, the New Jersey 2008 Hospital Performance Report. The report contains comparative information on the quality of treatment provided by all New Jersey acute care hospitals, using nationally accepted measures. This year's report has expanded the number of measures reported for pneumonia and prevention of surgical infections. The measures reported for treating heart attack and heart failure patients remain the same.

Check out the Department's interactive website, [www.nj.gov/health/hpr](http://www.nj.gov/health/hpr) , which contains the full report and additional quality information and resources not found in the hard copy report. The web site also allows the user to compare hospitals by county, region or medical condition.

## A Day of Fun for a Good Cause

The Medical Society of New Jersey would like to invite you all to join us in supporting a very good cause while having some tax deductible fun. Please join us on Monday, October 20, 2008, for a relaxing day of golf, food, drinks, conversation, and fabulous gifts and prizes at the beautiful Spring Lake Golf Club. The cost is \$385 and includes lunch, greens fees, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and dinner. The cause is the Institute for Medicine and Public Health of New Jersey (IOMPHNJ), which is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which makes a chunk of the cost tax deductible. IOMPHNJ's mission is to improve the health status of New Jersey residents through innovative public health practice and high quality medical care by developing solutions to New Jersey's public health and healthcare challenges through continuing medical education, partnerships, policy development, research, and the law. For more information, please contact Judith Martin Waterman at [waterman@msnj.org](mailto:waterman@msnj.org), or 609.896.1766, ext. 259. She will be delighted to answer any questions you might have.

R. Prasad Gupta, MD, MSNJ President

### Coming up...

#### 2008

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

#### 2009

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