



ALMDA

News & Notes

THE SOCIETY FOR POST-ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICINE

WWW.ALMDA.ORG

Registration is open for ALMDA's Mid Winter Conference

ALMDA's Mid Winter Conference is January 27 at the Birmingham Marriott on Grandview Parkway. Registration and breakfast with exhibitors will begin at 8 a.m.

Topics at the conference include:

- Coding and Documentation
- Symptom Management at End of Life
- Preventing Hospital Admissions in Nursing Home Residents
- QAPI Overview
- Advanced Care Planning, Documentation and Health Maintenance in the Long-Term Care Setting

In addition to five hours of instruction, we will also have lunch and a brief membership meeting. See the full schedule on page 2, and the Membership and Conference Registration form on page 3. Register and/or pay your dues online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2018.

Reserve a room at the Birmingham Marriott by calling (888) 426-5171 or reserve a room online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDAmarriott. 

Three simple steps for increasing medicine's Influence

The following is a summary of an article appearing in the Nov. 22 Rotunda

From the outside looking in, the political process likely seems as inviting as a shark tank, as navigable as a corn maze, as predictable as the Kentucky Derby. Intimidating, confusing and frustrating are often used by citizens to describe advocacy-related interactions with government.

In his Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln famously opined our nation's form of government - "of the people, by the people, for the people." However, outcomes are typically directed by those choosing to engage government on issues important to them, and so government becomes "of the people, by the people, for the people [who choose to participate]."

continued on page 5


PDMP software change nears

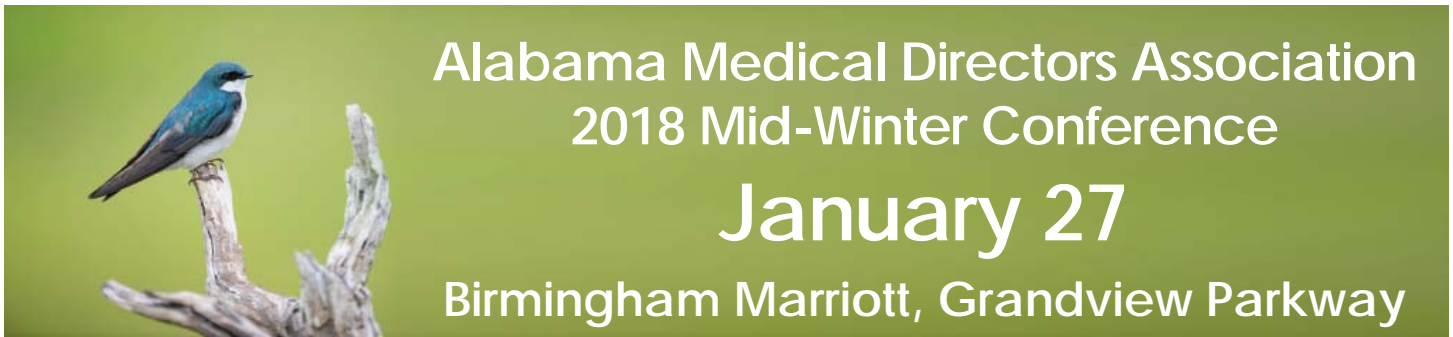
The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is a program developed to promote the public health and welfare by detecting diversion, abuse, and misuse of prescription medications classified as controlled substances under the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act. This law requires anyone who dispenses Class II, III, IV, V controlled substances to report the dispensing of these drugs to the database.

On Dec. 12, 2017, the Alabama PDMP is scheduled to change its database software system to the Appriss PMP AWARxE system.

In PMP AWARxE, the username will be an email address and **each user must have a unique user name** (email address). Any accounts that share the same email address will **not** be transferred to the new system. If your account is not transferred, you will have to submit a new registration application and wait for your account to be approved by the state administrator.

For assistance, please contact technical support directly at (855) 925-4767 option 1.

For policy questions, you may contact the Alabama Prescription Drug Monitoring Program at (877) 703-9869 or by email at pdmp@adph.state.al.us. 



Alabama Medical Directors Association 2018 Mid-Winter Conference

January 27

Birmingham Marriott, Grandview Parkway

Agenda

Saturday, January 27

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Meeting of the ALMDA Board of Directors, ALNHA's executives, ALAA executives and the ALDPH Medical Director Advisory Committee

8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

Registration
Strolling Breakfast with Exhibitors

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.

Welcome
J. Grier Stewart, MD, Board Chair

9:05 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.

Coding and Documentation
James Stroud, CPA, Warren Averett
Learning Objective: Examine ways to assist physicians in the Long-Term Care facility with appropriate coding and necessary documentation to support billing.

10:05 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Symptom Management at End of Life
Robert J. Webb, MD, ABFM, ABHPM, Medical Director, Supportive Care Services, Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital
Learning Objective: Demonstrate ways to assist physicians in dealing with dying patients and their families, as well as provide adequate comfort measures.

11:05 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Break with Exhibitors

11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

Preventing Hospital Admissions in Nursing Home Residents
Clare Hays, MD, CMD, Assistant Professor, University of Alabama - Birmingham
Learning Objective: Review how caregivers can gain knowledge to reduce hospital admissions and improve overall care of patients.

12:35 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch with Exhibitors

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

ALMDA membership meeting

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

QAPI Overview
Carol Hill, MSN, RN, QCP-MT, RAC-MT, DNS-CT, CPC, Owner and Primary Consultant, Hill Educational Services, Inc.
Learning Objective: Identify ways effective quality management protects organizations from costly errors and financial penalties.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Advanced Care Planning, Documentation and Health Maintenance in the Long-Term Care Setting.
Emily Mason, MD, Fellow, University of Alabama - Birmingham; and Ellen Willis, MD, Fellow, University of Alabama - Birmingham
Learning Objective: Report physician resident-in-training updates in long-term health topics of interest to nursing home care providers.

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

The ALMDA room block rate at the Birmingham Marriott is \$139 and will expire on Jan. 5. Call 888-426-5171 or reserve a room online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDAmarriott.

To register, print a Membership and Conference Registration form at www.almda.org or register online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2018.



THE ALABAMA
MEDICAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

ALMDA
19 S. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104
(334) 954-2500 | Fax (334) 269-5200
www.almda.org

2018 Individual Membership and Conference Registration

Name: _____ Professional Designation: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Address: _____
Street or PO Box City, State ZIP

*Home Address: _____
Street or PO Box City, State ZIP

Facility Phone: _____ *Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____ *E-mail: _____

- Check here to opt out of being listed in the 2018 ALMDA Member Directory.
(*Home addresses, cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be published).

Select a Membership Category (Pay dues online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2018)

- Regular Membership: \$100**
Physicians and Nurse Practitioners involved in long-term care
- Associate Membership: \$50**
Nurses, Pharmaceutical Representatives, Administrators, and any other professional involved in long-term care

Meeting Registration (Register online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDA2018)

Attendees of ALMDA's conferences must be a member. Choose the appropriate category above.

- Mid-Winter Conference (Jan. 27, 2018) \$200 (Add \$25 if registering after Jan. 19)**
Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35243
For hotel reservations, call the Birmingham Marriott at (888) 426-5171 and ask for the Alabama Medical Directors Association Room Block or reserve online at www.tinyurl.com/ALMDAmarriott. Rate for Friday, Jan. 26, is \$139.
Room cutoff is Jan. 5, 2018.

- Annual Conference (July 26-29, 2018) \$300 (Add \$25 if registering after July 20)**

- Annual Conference Guest(s) (meal functions only) \$75 each** Name(s): _____
Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Linkside Conference Center, 9300 Emerald Coast Highway, Miramar Beach, FL 32550
For hotel reservations, call the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort at (800) 320-8115 with group code 23K8QY or reserve online at www.sandestin.com/23K8QY.aspx. Rates begin at \$179 per night and apply for three days before and three days after the conference based on availability. Room cutoff is June 22, 2018.

PAYMENT:

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express Check payable to ALMDA

Cardholder Name: _____

Billing Address: _____
Street or PO Box City, State ZIP

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Email for Receipt: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Complete form and return to: Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA)
P.O. Box 1900 • Montgomery, AL 36102 • Fax: (334) 269-5200

2018 Medicare physician fee schedule released

www.paltc.org

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a final rule on the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) for CY 2018. Policies in the final rule generally will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018.

The PFS conversion factor (CF) for 2018 is \$35.9996. For 2018, the specified update is 0.5 percent, before applying other adjustments.

In addition to the update, the CF calculation for 2018 takes into account two other factors: the RVU budget neutrality adjustment and the target recapture amount (the proposed CMS estimate of the net reduction in expenditures resulting from proposed adjustments to relative values of misvalued codes as compared to the 2018 statutory target of 0.5 percent net reductions in expenditures).

Read the full summary of the final rule at www.paltc.org.

New Medicare cards coming in April

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has redesigned its Medicare card to remove Social Security numbers and use a unique, randomly-assigned number in an effort to better protect users from identity theft and fraud.

CMS will begin mailing the new cards to people with Medicare benefits in April 2018 to meet the statutory deadline for replacing all existing Medicare cards by April 2019.

CMS has assigned all people with Medicare benefits a new, unique Medicare number, which contains a combination of numbers and uppercase letters.

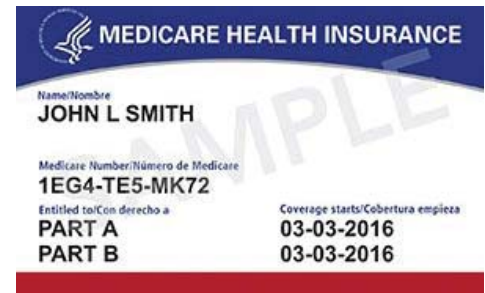
Health care providers and people with Medicare will be able to use secure look-up tools that will allow quick access to the new Medicare numbers when needed. There will also be a 21-month transition period where doctors, health care providers and suppliers will be able to use either their current SSN-based Medicare number or their new, unique Medicare number, to ease the transition.

For more information, please visit: www.cms.gov/newcard.

How to get ready for the change

- Ask your billing and office staff if your system can accept the new 11-digit alphanumeric Medicare Beneficiary Identifier.
- If your system cannot accept the new number, system changes should be made by April 2018.
- If providers use vendors to bill Medicare, ask them about their MBI practice management system changes and make sure they are ready for the change.
- Verify your patients' addresses: If the address you have on file is different than the address you get in electronic eligibility transaction responses, ask your patients to contact Social Security and update their Medicare records. This may require coordination between your billing and office staff.

For more information go to <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/Providers.html>.



ProAssurance establishes academic research program dedicated to physician wellness

ProAssurance Corporation announced in September the establishment of the ProAssurance Endowed Chair for Physician Wellness at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This academic chair is the first of its kind in the United States and demonstrates ProAssurance's commitment to its role as a leading advocate for America's physicians.

The initial \$1.5 million gift to the UAB School of Medicine will endow an academic chair and also will support a research team dedicated to addressing health issues that are unique to physicians.

As he announced the gift, ProAssurance Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Stan Starnes underscored the importance of the research that will emerge. He said,

"Physicians have always been subject to the high levels of stress from a variety of factors such as society's expectations for successful outcomes, the threat of litigation and the effect of their professional obligations on the quality of their lives, and their families' lives.

"As medicine evolves to address the changing dynamic of healthcare in America, we must find ways to address these pressures," Starnes continued.

"UAB leadership is committed at the highest level to provide our physicians, residents, fellows and trainees the same type of world class care they provide for the citizens of Alabama and beyond every day," said UAB President Ray L. Watts, MD. "This generous investment by ProAssurance will enable us to recruit an

expert in the field of physician wellness who can implement well-designed interventions that enhance our sustainable culture of wellness and provide trainees with tools and resources to manage stress and burnout."

ProAssurance also expects to provide an additional gift of \$500,000 to fund various initiatives in support of physician wellness. The company's chief medical officer, Hayes V. Whiteside, MD, said, "Assisting physicians has always been a high priority for ProAssurance. Now more than ever, we need to ensure that today's physicians maintain their commitment to our high calling, and that future physicians are equipped to deal with the realities of their vital chosen profession."

Medicine's influence continued

How physicians can participate

Step 1: Join, join, join. A significant portion of success is simply showing up, but most physicians don't have the time to spend flying back and forth to Washington or driving to Montgomery for Congressional or legislative meetings, hearings and sessions. But when like-minded people pool their resources good things can happen. Advocacy organizations (individual state medical societies, and state and national specialty societies) concerned with ensuring delivery of quality care and a positive practice and liability environment all deserve your support and membership.

Step 2: Get to know a few key people. Physicians are responsible for a lot, and in today's world especially, it's easy to get in a routine and leave the job of representing the profession to someone else. While membership in organizations advocating for physicians helps fund advocacy operations, paying membership dues alone is not enough. Getting to know a few key people is not difficult, even if only by phone or email. In lawmakers' minds, there is no contact more important than one from a constituent.

Step 3: Put your money where your mouth is. Political action committees (PACs) help elect candidates physicians can work with on important issues and are worthy of your support. When it comes to PAC contributions, never underestimate the impact of even a small donation. Choosing not to participate in the political process is akin to getting sued, consciously sitting out voir dire and letting the plaintiff's lawyer pick the jury.

Summary

The future of medical care rests not with elected lawmakers and appointed bureaucrats but with the men and women actually caring for patients every day. A representative democracy functions best when the electorate holds those elected to office accountable. Increasing medicine's ability to successfully advocate for physicians and the patients they serve will require increased participation in the political process. It is incumbent upon physicians to join the organizations fighting for them, to get to know their elected officials and to contribute to PACs whose goals align with their own.

Read the full article at www.almda.org.

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AMDA - THE SOCIETY FOR POST-ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICINE

NAVIGATING
A CHANGING LANDSCAPE IN
POST-ACUTE & LONG-TERM CARE

MARCH 22-25, 2018
 Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center - Grapevine, TX (Dallas suburb)

AMDA Annual Conference March 22-25, 2018, Grapevine, Texas

AMDA's Annual Conference is the only educational forum of its kind in the field of post-acute and long-term care (PA/LTC). It is filled with opportunities to enhance your knowledge and competencies in providing quality PA/LTC. Attendees are exposed to the latest clinical development in geriatric medicine, best practices in medical direction, policy/regulatory updates, as well as practical tools to help implement new ideas in your practice setting. Learn more at <http://www.paltc.org/node/2906>.

Government Affairs Conference set for January

Make plans to join your colleagues at the Medical Association of the State of Alabama's Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C., Jan. 29-31, 2018.

Protecting and promoting medicine's interests on Capitol Hill is a never-ending responsibility that requires participation from physicians across all specialties. Let your voice be heard in Washington. **Register today!**

Reserve a room at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel by calling (800) 424-6835 or (202) 628-9100 or online at www.washingtonintercontinental.com. Use Group Code MAS to reserve a room at the discounted rate of \$289/night. **The deadline to book a room at the Willard Intercontinental is Jan. 2, 2018.**

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Alabama Medical Directors Association

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The Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA) is the professional association of physicians and other professionals practicing in the long-term care continuum and is dedicated to excellence in patient care by providing education, advocacy, information and professional development.

The articles contained in ALMDA News & Notes are meant to provoke thought and comment and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the members, Executive Council or staff of the Alabama Medical Directors Association. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.