

BACKBONE

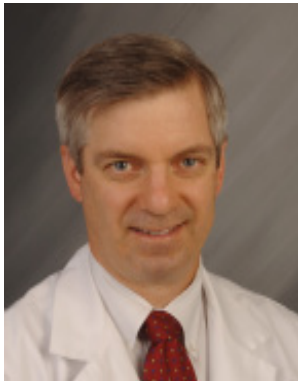
a publication of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Volume 14

Winter 2011

President's Corner *Brian Smith, M.D. - President*

Your membership in the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society was vital to our collective success in 2010. Together, we:



- Introduced legislation in Connecticut seeking the reimbursement of and eliminate retroactive denials of preauthorized, precertified procedures and services,

- Represented members at the CON work group meetings urging CON repeal,

- Hit the halls of the Capitol in Washington to speak with Connecticut Congressional delegation on the urgent matter of a permanent fix to the Medicare SGR, changing the requirements for Health Information Technology and antitrust relief,

- Communicated our collective voice on matters of Worker's Compensation and the Medicare Advisory Committee for LCDs,

- Sponsored communication workshops that provided CMIC premium credits, CME and generated thousands of dollars in donations to the Society's Foundation,

- Hosted the Society's annual meeting and orthopaedic coding workshop for hundreds of our members and their staff

- Provided timely updates and call to action to support state and federal legislation,

- Augmented the activities of the Connecticut and specialty society organizations.

Your ongoing support will be critical to our mission in 2011. Your continued involvement enables our Society to project a strong, unified voice in state and national issues. ***The COS is the ONLY in-state organization that has as its sole objective, the interests of the orthopaedic surgeon.***

And while we are 247 strong in membership, there are still over 100 orthopaedic surgeons who are not members. If you know a colleague or two that are not current members, urge them to join or provide our office with their contact information.

In 2011, your Society will continue to work diligently on your behalf with the following activities and focus:

- **Legislative** – A seat at the legislative table with upcoming debates and decisions including, protecting physicians from any proposed state provider tax, ensuring that pre-certified/preauthorized treatment is reimbursed and mandating truth in advertising for allied healthcare. We will continue to safeguard the practice of medicine and assist the Society's members with presentations at public hearings, bill tracking and meetings with key legislators.

- **Worker's Compensation** – Continue an open dialogue with the Commission and key legislators to discuss a possible update of current treatment guidelines and health care coverage for the injured workers of Connecticut.

- **Programs for Your Practice** - Educational seminars are offered at reduced rates with continuing education credits. Don't miss the Coding Workshop scheduled for **March 10, 2011** (registration form in this issue) Don't miss the Communications Workshops which provides CMIC-insured members with a 2.5% premium credit and CME credits.

- **Annual Meeting & CMEs** - This year's event will be held on **May 13, 2011**, at the Farmington Marriott Hotel and will offer informative clinical sessions from renowned speakers and more.

- **Communicate and update members** with the Society's website (www.ctortho.org), online newsletter, "Backbone" and ***new this year, E-Bulletin – Insurance Contracting Issues***

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2011 Legislative Session

The session begins January 5, 2011, and the Society is ready to embark on a renewed attempt to obtain legislation that would guarantee payment of precertified/preauthorized services and procedures. Spearheaded last session by Drs. F. Scott Gray and Frank Gerratana, language was introduced to achieve this goal however in the final hours our support was withdrawn due to significant language changes made by the insurance industry. Our Society will need members and their patients to lend specific problems and experiences they have had with retroactive denial of previously precertified and/or preauthorized procedures.

We will be working with the State Medical Society and Specialty Societies on Truth in Advertising, Medical Loss Ratio Caps, Definition of Surgery, Enhancing Standards and Fairness in Contracting and opposing any provider tax legislation introduced.

To accomplish these goals we need your involvement. Please consider volunteering for the "Doctor on Call" CSMS initiative. We are working together to get physician representation at the legislature on various days from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. to testify at public hearings and/or meet with legislators on the key issues of concern to medicine. If you are interested, please contact Susan Schaffman (860)690-1146 or email ctorthoexec@gmail.com for details on how to get involved. We will keep you posted throughout the session on critical matters.

Members Making a Difference

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society would like to thank Drs. Michael Connair and Michael Aronow for their time and efforts to protect and preserve the practice of orthopaedics and medicine.

Michael Connair, MD was one of two orthopaedists (Dr. Peter Mandell, AAOS) in the Country who testified before the U.S. Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C. Dr. Connair, representing the Federation of Physicians and Dentists (FPD) as well as physicians in our State provided testimony on the unequal treatment of physicians with respect to antitrust laws and their effect on health care providers. He took time from his busy, solo practice to represent the practice of medicine and advocate against the lack of antitrust enforcement against insurers. Dr. Connair has worked over the past 14 years to

SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting

Friday, May 13, 2011

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Program 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Farmington Marriott Hotel, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, Connecticut

You won't want to miss this event which will provide you with important new clinical information, updates in treatments and an opportunity to earn AMA Category 1 CME Credits.

Details and registration information will be available on our site, www.ctortho.org soon, or contact the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society's Executive Director, Susan Schaffman at (860) 690-1146. The Society looks forward to your participation.

educate physicians about the lawful procedures to obtain fair contracts from commercial health care insurers.

Michael Aronow, MD, provided his expertise and experience to the New York Orthopaedic Society battling podiatrists in their state on scope of practice. Dr. Aronow was instrumental in our State a few years ago with a similar scope issue and spent numerous hours in mediation/arbitration with the podiatrists and Department of Public Health to limit podiatrists seeking ankle surgery privileges and protect patients as well as the practice of orthopaedics.

President's Corner

In Practice

(cont. from front page)

Your Society works diligently for orthopaedists and their practice and we have been able to keep the dues for 2011 at \$250.00, which includes admission to the Annual Meeting with CME credits, reduced rates for coding workshops, legislative and regulatory representation, and much more. Please complete the form and mail with dues payment (for your convenience, we accept MasterCard or VISA).

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society wishes you and yours a happy and healthy new year.

Connecticut Orthopaedic Society 2011 Membership

2011 Renewal Membership	\$250.00
Political Activities Contribution (optional)	<u>\$ 50.00*</u>

Please complete the information below and mail with payment and payable to the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society. (not tax deductible) (Please print/type)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

Physician Email _____

Practice Web Address _____

Practice Manager's Name _____

Email Address _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Type of Card(circle one) MasterCard VISA

Cardholder's Name _____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____(month) _____(year)

Signature _____

For questions or comments, please contact Susan Schaffman, Executive Director at (860)561-5205, email sasshops@aol.com.

Compliance Programs Reduce Risk

(Editor's Note: The following information was contributed by Teresa Elia, MA PT President, Healthcare Compliance Associates, LLC . More Information ; phone: 800-511-4396 email: teresaelia@msn.com)

The Office of the Inspector General issued compliance program guidelines for solo and group practices in the Federal Register in October 2000 – but not many physicians noticed. Compliance has now become a ubiquitous word and Physicians are beginning to wonder, “What exactly is a compliance program?” This article will attempt to answer that question by presenting the OIG’s guidelines and also to clarify the importance of integrating a compliance program into your orthopedic practice.

Corporate Compliance refers to your practice’s pledge to operate within the statutes, rules, regulations and policies set by the government, insurance programs and payers. Current OIG guidelines for an effective compliance program specify seven key components. They are as follows:

- 1)The designation of a chief compliance officer and committee who are charged with the responsibility of operating and monitoring the compliance program within a physician group practice.
- 2)The development and distribution of written standards of conduct as well as policies and procedures which articulate a commitment to compliance across all aspects of your practice’s operations such as handling patient information, billing and documentation, human resources, and business associate agreements.
- 3)The use of audits to monitor compliance and to detect, respond to and prevent identified problem areas.
- 4)The development and implementation of regular compliance education and training programs for all employees.
- 5)The creation and maintenance of a process, such as a Hotline, for employees to anonymously and without concern of retaliation, report suspected fraud or abuse.
- 6)The development of a system to promptly respond to potential or actual misconduct and to create corrective action.
- 7)The development and enforcement of well publicized

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The Backbone is a publication of the **Connecticut Orthopaedic Society**. Comments and suggestions should be directed to: **Susan Schaffman, Executive Director**
26 Riggs Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 561-5205 phone
email: sasshops@aol.com

In Practice

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Compliance Program for Your Practice

disciplinary guidelines for employees who violate federal or state laws and/or the practice's policies.

Health Care Reform, otherwise known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAC), makes the establishment of a compliance program **mandatory** for all physician groups who receive federal dollars through Medicare and Medicaid. PPAC also grants significantly increased funding to several government agencies to enforce aggressive fraud and abuse prevention.

The Health Care Fraud and Abuse fund will receive \$250 million applied to a \$10 million annual budget specifically to detect payment errors and to recapture overpayments of Medicare dollars. The federal mandate coupled with the heightened surveillance of billing practices makes establishing a robust compliance program essential "preventative medicine" for physician practices, particularly those with ancillaries.

While the task of creating a compliance program appears onerous at first, the benefits to your orthopedic practice are significant. An effective compliance program will demonstrate your practice's commitment to honest, responsible corporate conduct, reduce the likelihood of an audit and can serve as a mitigating factor in the event of an audit or investigation. It will also optimize proper claims payment, streamline business operations and minimize potential financial loss to the practice through early detection of and response to billing errors.

Most importantly, an active compliance program creates a "culture of compliance" among your employees thereby protecting the integrity of the practice which you have worked diligently to create.

State of CT - CME Requirement Update

For physicians with registration periods on or after October 1, 2010, the State of Connecticut will require coursework in cultural competency.

To assist you, the AAOS has recently launched an online program, AAOS' Culturally Competent Care Program and is available at www.aaos.org/cc. This education activity is FREE to all AAOS members, including orthopaedic residents. Physicians can earn up to 6 AMA PRA Category 1 CME credits for reading the guidebook and completing the 18 interactive patient cases online. [Log onto www.aaos.org/cc to access the CME program.](http://www.aaos.org/cc)

For Your Practice – Coming Soon

We are pleased to announce a new offering to our members coming in late January (look for details emailed).

Combined MEDDEFENSE Plus/e-MD writeNow! Program will offer coverage for defense reimbursement for actual or alleged billing errors, defense for other medical regulatory violations including HIPAA, EMTALA and STARK and network security, data recovery costs and credit monitoring insurance. All at an exclusive low-rate for COS members.

PSA on Distracted Driving

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society is pleased to join in with the AAOS' 2011 Public Service Announcement campaign initiative beginning in February 2011

Building on the momentum of the "OMG" Don't Text and Drive" campaign, the AAOS and their partners, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association, will present a new campaign to stop the practice of distracted driving.

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society will be listed in in the tagline (in conjunction with the Academy's and our partner's names) on the television PSAs distributed to media outlets in our State.

In addition, orthopaedists will be able to order tabletop, easel backed posters with the distracted driving message for placement in their patient waiting areas. Details will be emailed when available.

Please join the AAOS and our Society to spread this important message to the citizens of Connecticut. Thank you.

Orthopaedic Coding - What You Need To Know in 2011

Sponsored by the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

The workshop is conducted by **Karen Zupko & Associates, Inc.**, a nationally-recognized practice management consulting firm, that provides coding and reimbursement workshops for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. **Back by popular demand is speaker, Ms. Mary LeGrand, R.N., M.A.** Mary LeGrand has twenty-five years of professional nursing and administrative experience. Previously, she held various clinical and administrative positions at the Washington University School of Medicine affiliated Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Mary has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing and a Master of Arts in Health Services Management from Webster University in St. Louis.

Don't miss new information, updates and revenue saving tips for your practice including:

- Overview of E & M Documenttion
- E & M Categories and Levels of Service
- Stepped Up Audits-Prepare Your Practice
- Answers to specific issues and concerns and More

Thursday, March 10, 2011

**8:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Program and Lunch**

Farmington Marriott - 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society is pleased to offer this workshop at a **reduced rate of \$295.00** per attendee to its 2011 dues paying members and their office staff. The fee includes program workbook, continental breakfast and lunch. Complete the form below and return to : **COS Administrative Office c/o Susan Schaffman, 26 Riggs Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107.**

Please register me(us) for the coding workshop, payment is enclosed. (*checks payable to Connecticut Orthopaedic Society or use your credit card.*)

YES, I am a 2011 Dues Paying Member of the Society Enclosed is payment of \$295.00 per participant

I am NOT a Society Member. Enclosed is payment of \$395.00 per participant.

Name _____ Name _____

Practice _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

Payment by Credit Card - fax (860) 561-5514

Type of Card (circle) MasterCard Visa

Cardholder Name _____

Account No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Foundation

In 2010, Connecticut Orthopaedic Society members contributed over \$3,000.00 to support the future training of the next generations of orthopaedic surgeons by contributing to the Connecticut Orthopaedic Foundation. Please join your colleagues in making a tax-deductible contribution and help make a difference.

Your Contribution Makes a Difference.

Enclosed is my contribution, made payable to the "Connecticut Orthopaedic Foundation, Inc." *(Please Print)*

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am pleased to support the Connecticut Orthopedic Foundation with a gift of *(check one)*

____ \$500.00 ____ \$250.00 ____ \$125.00 \$ ____ (other)

Please send to the Connecticut Orthopaedic Foundation, 26 Riggs Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107. Your cancelled check is your receipt. **Thank you!**

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