

# Take Your PIC

A monthly publication on prescription improvement in New Mexico Vol. 4, Issue 1 January 2009

Please forward this newsletter to those in your organization that can benefit from the information. Note that a number of useful links to the Internet are embedded. To fully benefit from the content presented, view this newsletter electronically and click on the purple type. Electronic versions of *Take Your PIC* can be accessed at [www.nmmra.org/resources/?group=63](http://www.nmmra.org/resources/?group=63).

**Comments on our new format? We'd love to hear from you!**

Please contact **Galina Priloutskaya** at (505) 998-9765.

For more information on any of these topics or to subscribe, unsubscribe, or suggest topics for *Take Your PIC*, contact **Galina Priloutskaya** at (505) 998-9765.

## Update on NMPIC Strategic Planning for 2009-11

Based on focus in the drug safety area by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the NMPIC steering committee approved at its December 18 strategic meeting the selection of two new measures: drug-to-drug interactions (DDI) and potentially inappropriate medications (PIM). DDI is the phenomenon that occurs when the effect of pharmacokinetics of a drug are altered by prior administration of another drug. The DDI measure is defined as percentage of Part D enrollees with claims for drugs potentially interacting but cannot measure any specific outcome from these potential DDIs. The PIM measure is defined as the percentage of Part D enrollees 65 years or older with one or more potentially inappropriate medication. The list of drugs for this measure encompass the updated Beers list, Zahn's list, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) 2008 measures.

**Congratulations to NMPIC's New Chair: Larry Georgopoulos, PharmD, Presbyterian Health Plan!**

## New PIM Advisory Board Formed

NMPIC held the first meeting of its Potentially Inappropriate Medications (PIM) Advisory Board. This group was formed to address and reduce the use of PIMs in older adults and related drug safety issues. Its first objective is to produce PIM clinical guidelines to include high-risk medications, areas of concern, and drug alternatives to PIMs. The Board, which is led by Amy Bachyrycz, PharmD, Walgreens (chair) and Melanie Dodd, PharmD, University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy (clinical advisor) approved its work plan and is expecting to release the clinical guidelines in April 2009. [Learn more.](#)

## NMPIC Launches E-Prescribing Pilot

NMPIC recently launched its e-prescribing pilot involving physicians statewide. This pilot, based on a statewide e-prescribing strategy and work plan accepted by NMPIC leadership, promotes the adoption of e-prescribing to enhance medication management and patient safety in participating locations. To date, more than 60 physicians throughout New Mexico have committed to participate with more expected. [For more information.](#)

## MTM Project Patient Recruitment Underway

NMPIC's medication therapy management (MTM) project is currently seeking the participation for one year of up to 600 New Mexico Medicare beneficiaries who meet specific criteria. This project is studying the effectiveness of MTM on medication adherence and other clinical outcomes using motivational interviewing, education and self-management. Local pharmacists will work with both patients and providers on medication management in order to improve blood glucose control and self-management in patients with diabetes, blood pressure in patients with hypertension, LDL cholesterol levels in patients with hyperlipidemia, and managing heart failure. [Learn more.](#)



## Spotlight on Success:

### Taos Pharmacy and Holy Cross Hospital Join Patient Safety Collaborative

Taos Pharmacy and Holy Cross Hospital are participating in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC), a national initiative aimed at improving patient safety for the poor, uninsured and underserved.

The focus population for Taos Pharmacy and Holy Cross Hospital Pharmacy are patients with diabetes that are uninsured or underinsured. Using primarily the clinical pharmacy services of access to medications, medication reconciliation and medication therapy management, the goal is to improve health care for patients with diabetes in the Taos area.

Pharmacists Jake Mossman and John Hutchinson expect that increased involvement by pharmacists will result in better control of blood glucose levels and greater adherence to established diabetes standards of care, which are aimed at reducing the risk of the health consequences of diabetes including heart disease, blindness, and kidney failure.

Assistance will be provided to diabetes patients who need help paying for diabetes medications and testing. Access to medications will be provided through combined state, local and manufacturers' patient assistance programs. Medication use will be reconciled and reviewed for duplications and drug interactions. Possible adverse events resulting from medication use will be identified and recommendations will be made to avoid adverse drug events. Diabetes monitoring will be used to assess the effectiveness of therapy and adjustments made to improve therapy outcomes. For more details on these activities underway in Taos, [download a recent presentation](#).

## New Mexico Presents at National HRSA Learning Session

The New Mexico Medication Management Partners team gave a presentation on best practices at the learning session of the national HRSA PSPC Collaborative held in December 2008 in Washington, D.C. The team discussed NMPIC's medication therapy management (MTM) pilot training, recruitment, Web resource portal, and data collection tool. The group showed great interest in the team's presentation. [View the presentation](#).

## Announcements

- This month's Patient Safety National Call sponsored by CMS focuses on drug safety issues. Featured speakers are Terri Cardwell, PharmD, and J. Michael Pontious, MD. The call takes place on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 12:30 pm Mountain time. To participate in the call, dial **1-866-939-8950** and reference **code 7813475#**.
- NMPIC welcomes EverCare and the New Mexico Medical Society to its Steering Committee.

Mark Your  
Calendars:  
The next  
semi-annual  
meeting  
of the  
New Mexico  
Prescription  
Improvement  
Coalition  
will take place  
March 26,  
8 to 10:30 a.m.  
at the NMMRA  
offices.

This material was prepared by the New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New Mexico, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 950W-NM-PD-09-02