

Take Your PIC

A monthly publication on prescription improvement in New Mexico Vol. 4, Issue 10 November 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 [green type](#). Electronic versions of *Take Your PIC* can be accessed at www.nmmra.org/resources/?group=63.

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

Please contact [Galina Prilouts kaya](#) 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 Prilouts kaya](#) at (505) 998-9765.

National News

Changes Published on Physician Quality Reporting Initiative and Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) established a five-year program of incentive payments to eligible professionals (EPs) who are “successful electronic prescribers” as defined by the statute. The reporting period for the E-Prescribing Incentive Program for 2010 will be the entire calendar year (CY), and incentives will be paid based on the covered professional services furnished by an eligible professional during the reporting year. Key changes for CY 2010 under the final rule will:

- Simplify reporting the e-prescribing measure by streamlining the manner and frequency that a provider must report e-prescribing information to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and providing more choices for reporting e-prescribing measures
- Broaden eligibility for the e-prescribing incentive by including professional services furnished in skilled nursing facilities, domiciliary care, or home care
- Implement a MIPPA provision that enables group practices to qualify for a 2010 e-prescribing incentive payment based on a determination at the group practice level, rather than at the individual eligible professional level, that the group practice is a successful e-prescriber

Following the distribution of 2010 incentive payments, CMS will, as required by MIPPA, post on its Web site the names of successful e-prescribers for the program. [More](#)

Rhode Island Reports E-Prescribing Success Led to Unique System for Tracking Swine Flu

At a press conference featuring health care leaders from throughout the state, Governor Donald L. Carcieri announced that Rhode Island was launching a new system for tracking swine flu. Unprecedented in its approach, the system makes use of prescribing data provided by pharmacies throughout the state via a secure electronic link. It is enabled by the state's success with e-prescribing and the digital health care infrastructure available through its partnership with Surescripts. [View press release](#)

CVS Caremark Launches Multi-Year Study on Patient Medication Adherence

CVS Caremark and researchers from Harvard and Brigham and Women's Hospital are launching a study to investigate patient adherence to prescription drug therapies. One of the four key components of the study will look at how electronic prescribing impacts compliance. The study will use an interdisciplinary approach, bringing disciplines like psychology, sociology and political studies together to share expertise on patient behavior and health care policy. Results from the study will be used to develop programs that health care providers and pharmacies can use to improve medication adherence. Researchers will look at e-prescribing to determine how it impacts costs, compliance and safety. [View the full article](#)

Walgreens Sees Large Increase in E-Prescribing

Walgreens has reported that the national pharmacy chain's electronic prescriptions reached the 4 million mark in October, a 185-percent increase over October 2008. *(continued on p. 2)*

Save the Date

Next NMPIC Regional Meetings:

Santa Fe:
February 8, 2010
(Luncheon)

Espanola:
February 8, 2010
(Dinner)

Taos:
February 9, 2010
(Dinner)

Keynote Presentation:
"The Use of Health Information Technology for Patient-Centered Medical Homes"

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-09-33

According to officials, the milestone demonstrates the impact of MIPPA. Walgreens will fill more than 45 million electronic prescriptions in 2009, compared with 15 million filled in 2008, officials said. The company expects growth to continue with help from financial incentives in the federal stimulus package. Walgreens officials are pushing for e-prescribing to be extended to all prescriptions, including controlled substances. [Access full article](#)

Policy Recommendations Offered for Improving Medication Adherence

A diverse group of health care and consumer organizations released five policy recommendations designed to promote better medication adherence and improved health outcomes for patients. The group, which includes the American College of Cardiology, GlaxoSmithKline, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the National Consumers League and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, focused their recommendations on the areas of quality improvement, care coordination, health information technology, patient/provider education and engagement, and health services research. [More information](#)

State News

Drug Safety Data Snapshot: Drug-Drug Interaction (DDI) and Potentially Inappropriate Medications (PIM) Measures

	7/1/2007 - 12/31/2007 (Baseline)		7/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	
	U.S.	NM	U.S.	NM
DDI	9.02%	8.34%	8.87%	7.91%
PIM	18.46%	18.91%	17.65%	17.85%

Source: CMS Medicare Part D claims data

NMPIC Updates

PIMs: Reference algorithms for the Potentially Inappropriate Medications (PIM) recommendations have been finalized and will be available for download on the Web site. Recommendations have been distributed to pharmacists and providers in nursing homes, home health agencies, physician offices, hospitals and health plans. In addition, a keynote presentation on PIMs was given at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association.

MTM Project: MTM faculty held a mandatory webinar for MTM participating pharmacists, which is available on the NMMRA Web site. [Access October webinar](#) Training for participating pharmacists on use of the PharmMD data portal via webinar (session 1) in November is posted to the NMMRA Web site. [Access November webinar](#) A second session will be offered in December. [Alex Vigil](#) from NMMRA has become a superuser of the PharmMD data portal and may be contacted with questions at (505) 998-9766.

E-Prescribing Project: Recruitment for the phase 2 of the e-prescribing project continues. Approximately 55 physicians have joined the project and are now working with vendors in selecting e-prescribing solutions. About 35 more physicians will be accepted to participate. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Galina Priloutskaya](#).