



SANGAMON
COUNTY
MEDICAL
SOCIETY

Inside this Issue:

President's Message

By Daren Siri, M.D., SCMS President



In the age of information overload, physician privacy has become a hot topic. From Facebook to Twitter to SnapChat, public and professional lives are melding more and more. Small and close-knit communities, such as ours in Sangamon County, in my estimation feel a deeper impact from the information mill.

I have listed below a few sources that, if not already known, we should all be aware of, as they may change both perceptions and the business of medicine.

The Sangamon County Medical Society would like hear your voice concerning how local and state medical societies can speak for you regarding the topics below.

- How will the information below affect physician and hospital fees and reimbursements?
- How do you feel about CMS and other parties revealing your income to the public?
- Are you concerned about privacy?
- Do you feel that mandatory quality reporting is beneficial or necessary?
- Many physicians have ownership and investments in healthcare companies. Do you think that this information should be reported? Do you think it creates conflict-of-interest that needs to be revealed to the public?

The Sunshine Act:

CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) implemented the Transparency Reports and Reporting of Physician Ownership or Investment Interests section of the Affordable Care Act, 2013 and submitted the first data capture reports earlier this year. The information will be available to the public by website publication.

What does this mean?

Companies who do business in healthcare, including manufacturers of drugs and devices, must report meals, gifts, honoraria, fees, and other items of value that is given to physicians and teaching hospitals. Disclosure of physician-ownership (and that of their immediate family members) of healthcare companies and group purchasing organizations is also reported. (Continued on page 10)

Welcoming New Physicians and their Families to the Sangamon County Medical Society	2
SCMS Alliance Improving Community Health through Service and Support	3
ISMS End-of-Session Legislative Report Now Available	4
ISMS District V Trustee's Message Craig A. Backs, M.D.	6
genHkids Coalition Eat Real—Move More	7
SIU School of Medicine Incoming Residents/Thomas F. Harmon M.D. Memorial Fund	8
Save the Date	9
President's Message continued from front page	10
ISMS End-of-Session Legislative Report Now Available—continued from page 4	11
SCMS Mini Internship Program	
Free Prescription Assistance Program	12
Chickpea and Tomato Salad with Fresh Basil	

Free Prescription Assistance Program for All Illinois Residents

The Illinois Rx Card is a free statewide prescription assistance program that offers free drug cards to all Illinois residents. The program provides discounts on both brand and generic medications with an average savings of around 30%. The program has no restrictions to membership, no income requirements, no age limitations and there are no applications to fill out. Everyone is eligible to receive savings.

The Illinois Rx Card was launched to help the uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescription medications. The program can also be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans. Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use the program to get a discount on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance.

There are currently more than 56,000 pharmacy locations across the country participating in the program, including all major pharmacy chains. To locate participating pharmacies and search medication pricing, go to www.illinoisrxcard.com. There you can also learn more about the program and print customized cards for your friends, family, employees, etc. No personal information is required to print a card and all prescriptions processed through the program are completely confidential. There is also a new smart phone app, Free Rx iCard, available to make obtaining a card even more convenient. If you are unable to obtain a card, you can have your prescription processed at any CVS or Dominick's Pharmacy in Illinois.

If you have any questions or would like hard cards for your patients, contact Mike Woods, Program Manager for Illinois Rx Card, by sending an email to mwoods@illinoisrxcard.com.

Chickpea and Tomato Salad with Fresh Basil

- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- About 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
- 25 large basil leaves, chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tbsp honey (10g)
- pinch of salt



Toss all ingredients together and chill for at least 20 minutes, allowing all the flavors to merge.

Do you have NEWS TO SHARE with other SCMS members about an employment opportunity, special event, items for sale or fundraiser?

If you are a member of SCMS and would like to add a “post” in our quarterly newsletter, please email Carol at carol@scmsdocs.org or call 726-5106.

We would be happy to help you spread your news.

Like us on Facebook!