

VPhA E-News

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7th Annual Regional Pharmacy Update

Your **Local Association & VPhA** invite you to attend an the **7th Annual Regional Pharmacy Update**.

Join pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists for **2 hours of law CE** at various locations across

Dear Timothy,

Welcome to the VPhA's members-only E-newsletter.

The **VPhA Foundation** is pleased to announce that it has **purchased a new home for Virginia Pharmacy!**

Additional information on the purchase as well as **pictures** of the new building can be found in the [April edition](#) of the *Virginia Pharmacist* journal. Information can also be found on the [VPhA homepage](#).

Look for additional information and updates in upcoming E-news as the move-in date approaches!

• **CMS Releases NPI Contingency Policy**

As we have announced previously, **May 23, 2007** is the deadline for covered entities to comply with HIPAA's **National Provider Identifier (NPI) standards**. Recognizing that transactions often require the participation of two covered entities and that non-compliance by one covered entity may put the second covered entity in a difficult position, **CMS released [NPI guidance](#)** to allow **contingency plans** to be implemented by covered entities making a good faith effort to comply with the NPI provisions. These contingency plans **may include acceptance of legacy provider numbers on HIPAA transactions**. Contingency plans **may not extend beyond May 23, 2008**, but covered entities may elect to end their contingency plans sooner.

More on NPI Coming Soon

A critical aspect of implementing the NPI is the ability for **covered entities to match a provider's NPI with the many legacy provider identifiers** that have been used to process administrative transactions.

*CMS plans to **make data available from the NPPES system** that will assist covered entities in*

the Commonwealth.

[Click here for dates and registration information.](#)

Quick Links

- [MTM Center](#)
- [Medicare Information](#)
- [iRx – Your Information Prescription](#)

VPhA Journals

- [April '07](#)
- [March '07](#)
- [February '07](#)
- [January '07](#)

Virginia Board of Pharmacy Newsletters

- [E-newsletter: February 2007](#)
- [E-newsletter: November 2006](#)
- [E-newsletter: August 2006](#)
- [E-newsletter: May 2006](#)

developing these "crosswalks." Additionally, Medicare will announce its own contingency plan shortly.

For more information on these NPI announcement, please click on the following:

- [April 2nd Medicare Rx Update](#)
- [April 4th Medicare Rx Update](#)

- **Additional Medicare Rx Updates**

The most recent updates from Medicare include:

April 2nd - CY'08 Changes:

- Changes to CY '08 Medicare Payment Rates and Policies
- Bid and Premium Demonstrations extended for 2008
- CMS to propose elimination of PBM "lock-in" or "spread" pricing for 2009

April 2nd - Competitive Bidding:

- CMS Issues Competitive Bidding Final Rule
- Initial Ten Categories of DMEPOS
- Diabetic Supplies... what does this mean for retail pharmacies?
- Small Supplier protections added

Note: for 2007, no areas in Virginia were selected as one of the 10 areas in the country for Competitive Bidding. An announcement will be made concerning 2008 areas (increased to 80 areas) in the future.

For quick reference, the initial ten categories of DMEPOS will be conducted on:

1. Oxygen Supplies and Equipment
2. Standard Power Wheelchairs, Scooters, and Related Accessories
3. Complex Rehabilitative Power Wheelchairs and Related Accessories
4. *Mail-Order Diabetic Supplies*
5. Enteral Nutrients, Equipment, and Supplies
6. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Devices, Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs), and Related Supplies and Accessories
7. Hospital Beds and Related Accessories
8. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) Pumps and Related Supplies and Accessories
9. Walkers and Related Accessories
10. Support Surfaces (Group 2 and 3 mattresses and overlays) – Miami & San Juan ONLY

Special Open Door Forum for Competitive

Acquisition for DMEPOS

CMS will host a **Special Open Door Forum (ODF)** from **2:30-3:30 PM EST on April 11, 2007** to discuss the CMS final rule to improve Medicare's payment for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) through a new competitive acquisition program. This Open Door Forum will provide a **brief overview of the provisions in the final rule** and the **bidding process** followed by an open session where ODF participants on the phone will have an opportunity to interact with CMS in an informal dialog.

To participate, **dial 1-800-837-1935 & reference conference ID: 2739332.**

For more information on these topics, please click on the following:

- [April 2nd Medicare Rx Update - CY '08 Changes](#)
 - [April 2nd Medicare Rx Update - Competitive Bidding](#)
 - [April 4th Medicare Rx Update](#)
- **Call for Nominations: Don't Miss an Opportunity to recognize your peers!**

It's that time of year again. VPhA is **currently taking nominations for the 2007 awards** to be presented at the **VPhA Annual Banquet**, August 7, 2007 at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach.

Nominate a worthy individual for the following honors:

- VPhA Outstanding Pharmacist Award
- Wyeth-Ayerst Bowl of Hygeia Award
- DuPont Pharma Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award
- Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award
- Virginia Pharmacist Service Award
- VPhA Award of Merit
- VPhA Technician Award

For more information on the awards as well as the nomination form, [click here.](#)

Submission must be received at VPhA **no later than 5 p.m. on April 20, 2007.**

- **Richmond.com Looking for Pharmacist Comments on Allergy Season**

For questions:
tim@vapharmacy.org
Please visit us on the web
for more information:
<http://www.vapharmacy.org>

Contact VPhA: 804 285-4145

The website **Richmond.com** would like to talk to area pharmacists concerning what they have seen so far in the **allergy season**.

If you are interested in providing your insight to Richmond.com, please contact me at Tim@vapharmacy.org.

According to their website, Richmond.com has over 300,000 unique visitors generating over 4.2 million pages of content to user requests each month.

- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

The responsibilities of **MRC volunteers** vary, depending on the nature of the needs in the community. MRC volunteers can **assist during emergencies** and with **public initiatives** and **ongoing community health outreach and education efforts**.



Major emergencies can overwhelm the capabilities of first responders, particularly during the first 12 to 72 hours. Medical and other health volunteers can provide an **important "surge" capacity** during this critical period. They also can augment medical staff shortages at local medical and emergency facilities. In short, communities often need **medically trained individuals** to fill in the gaps in their emergency response plans and to improve their response capabilities overall.

MRC volunteers also strengthen the overall health of Americans by **participating in general public health initiatives** such as flu vaccination clinics and diabetes detection programs. The U.S. Surgeon General has outlined his priorities for the health of individuals and the nation as a whole. The overarching goal is to improve health literacy, and in support of this, he encourages MRC volunteers to work toward increasing disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, in addition to public health preparedness.

For a list of MRCs in Virginia: [click here](#)

[For more information on Medical Reserve Corps](#)

- **Living Well With Arthritis 2007 Summit**

May 11, 2007 - 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Richmond Marriott West (in Innsbrook)
4240 Dominion Blvd., Glen Allen, Virginia

The purpose of this **educational awareness symposium** is to provide a format that will increase a basic **understanding of arthritis** in some of its most common forms and **develop private and public partnerships to address the impact** of arthritis in Virginia.

The **Living Well with Arthritis Summit** will be held at the Richmond Marriott West, located in Innsbrook, 4240 Dominion Blvd., Glen Allen, VA 23060, (804) 965-9500, Fax: (804) 965-5559, www.marriott-hotels.com. A conference rate of \$102.00 plus taxes per night will be offered. **Deadline for the special rate is April 19.** You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. The Marriott's compliant rooms are included in our room block and will be reserved on a first-come first serve basis. **Please call the Richmond Marriott West directly** at (804) 965-9500 to make your own reservations

Presented By:

The Virginia Arthritis Action Coalition
The Virginia Department of Health
Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Arthritis Project

[For additional information on the Living Well with Arthritis Summit, click here.](#)

• **iRx - Your Information Prescription**



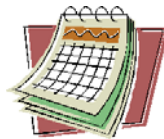
iRx consists of valuable **new prescription drug information of breaking news and newly approved drugs**. The information contained within the publications is developed by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics' Center for Drug Policy and published by the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin. **iRx** is intended to provide **key practical information regarding drug products in a brief and easily-readable format**. You can find the most recent iRx files at the top-right of the front page of www.vapharmacy.org under "Quick Links". Most recent topics added:

- **March 28:** Noxafil® - Recently-approved, broad-spectrum antifungal agent
- **March 21:** Sedative-Hypnotics - FDA recommends stronger warnings
- **March 7:** Abraxane® - Paclitaxel protein-bound particles

[For the most up-to-date topics from iRx, click here.](#)

• **Upcoming Educational Events**

- **April 15:** *Treatment of Smoking Cessation* - Tidewater Pharmacists Association (NO CE)
- **April 19:** *9th Vaccine Issues Update Conference* - Project Immunize Virginia and Consortium for Infant and Child Health
- **April 24:** *The Polypharmacy of Parkinson's Disease: New Therapeutic Approaches* - Virginia Pharmacists Association and the Washington D.C. Pharmaceutical Association (1.5 HR CE)



For more important dates...

• **Pharmacy Quality Commitment®**



Pharmacy Quality Commitment® (PQC) (www.pqc.net) is a continuous quality improvement system that was developed for the purpose of **providing risk management services** to pharmacists. It strives to **reduce medication errors** in the pharmacy by offering structures and methods for improvement and a feedback system that allows the pharmacist to **elevate the quality of patient care**. PQC is a two part system (Sentinel system and Quality Manager audit system) that enables a pharmacy to identify, document and analyze workflow through a simple, web-based data entry system.

For more information about **Pharmacy Quality Commitment®**, contact Tim Musselman of VPhA (804-285-4145 or tim@vapharmacy.org) or Tara Modisett of NASPA CQI (804-285-4431 or tara@naspa.us). Additional information can be found at www.pqc.net.

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