

February 2015

2015 Meetings & Events

AN EVENING WITH ANN MARCH 19, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
**Please Join us in Wishing
Ann a Happy Retirement**

Gulf Harbour Yacht & Country Club
14500 Vista River Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
RSVP Required

RSVP to: Lee County Medical Society
13770 Plantation Road, Ste 1
Fort Myers, FL 33912
Tel: 936-1645 • Fax: 936-0533
Email: Valerie@lcmsfl.org

LCMS Collecting Toiletries for Charities

While you are away on vacation or business trips, please remember to collect your unused toiletry items from the places that you are staying. You can drop them off at our Medical Society office and they will be distributed to local charities. Your help is appreciated!

Inserts:

Leading Edge, Insurance Open Enrollment
Love a Child Mission Trip
Professional/Medical Sale or Lease
Joy Hunton Open House Invitation
State of Florida Do Not Resuscitate Form

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Sanibel Lighthouse
Photo by: Ed Guttery, M.D.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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PRINTERS

The Print Shop

Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement & Disclosure Policy

The purpose of the LCMS is to unite the medical profession of Lee County, FL, into one compact organization; extend medical knowledge and advance medical science; elevate the standards of medical education; strive for the enactment, preservation and enforcement of just medical and public health laws; promote friendly relations among doctors of medicine and guard and foster their legitimate interests; enlighten and alert the public, and merit its respect and confidence.

All LCMS Board of Governors and Committee meeting minutes are available for all members to review.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DECEASED

Charles S. Eby, MD

MOVING FROM AREA

Joseph Ghitis, MD

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Jonathan Jay, MD

Roland Rivera, MD

David Wilkinson, MD

Specialists in Urology

28930 Trails Edge Blvd., Ste 200

Bonita Springs, FL 34134

239-333-3200

NEW PRACTICE

Raymond Kordonowy, MD

Internal Medicine, Lipid & Wellness Practice

6311 South Pointe Blvd., Ste 200

Fort Myers, FL 33919

Tel: 239-362-3005

Fax: 239-362-3392

NEW APPLICANTS



Winston B. Bokor, MD – Dr. Bokor received his MD degree from St. Matthews University, Orlando, FL in 2009. He completed his internship and residency from 2009-2012 and an Infectious Disease fellowship from 2012-2014 at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine, Johnson City, TN. Dr. Bokor is board certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is in group practice with Internal Medicine Associates, 13813 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912 Tel: 239-936-1343.



Craig J. Eichler, MD – Dr. Eichler received his MD degree from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL in 1989. He completed his internship at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL from 1989-1990 and residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX from 1990-1993. He is board certified in Dermatology by the American Board of Dermatology. Dr. Eichler is in group practice with The Woodruff Institute, 2235 Venetian Court, Ste 1, Naples, FL 34109 Tel: 239-596-9337.



Stephen J. Ducatman, MD – Dr. Ducatman received his MD degree from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY in 1978. He completed his internship at Roger Williams General Hospital, Providence, RI from 1978-1981 and residency at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL from 1981-1984. He is board certified in Dermatology by the American Board of Dermatology. Dr. Ducatman is in group practice with The Woodruff Institute, 2235 Venetian Court, Ste 1, Naples, FL 34109 Tel: 239-596-9337.



Natasha A. Bower, MD – Dr. Bower received her MD degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, FL in 2005. She completed her residency at Fletcher Allen Health Center, Burlington, VT from 2005-2009. Dr. Bower is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is will be in group practice with Physicians Primary Care of SWFL, 9021 Park Royal Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908 Tel: 239-432-5858 effective March 1, 2015.



Thomas Logio, MD – Retired – Dr. Logio received his MD degree from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO in 1967. He completed his training at University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics, Chicago IL from 1967-1970 and Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA from 1970-1979. Dr. Logio volunteers at the Senior Friendship Centers, 4250 Hatton Rogers, North Fort Myers, FL 33903 Tel: 239-656-0221.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY PRESENTED DR. VALERIE DYKE THE LEGACY AWARD FOR HER CONTINUED SUPPORT ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015 AT THE ANNUAL CATTLE BARONS' BALL. THE LCMS CONGRATULATES YOU.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, M.D.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

Like every new president of our medical society, I am faced each month with the quandary of what to write in these pages. There certainly is not much that I can teach my esteemed colleagues. So let me start off the year by welcoming and introducing you all to our new executive director, Mrs. Julie Ramirez.

First though, a little background on the state of affairs at the Lee County Medical Society. Last fall, our esteemed and gracious leader (Ms. Ann Wilke) came to a small group of us and regretfully announced her wish to retire. I did of course do what any other sane president-elect would do, I promptly plugged my ears with my fingers and started singing "la-la-la-la-la." Well, clearly that wasn't going to be a solution, and after a little pep-talk from Ann about how I need to put my big-boy pants on, she out-lined for us her wishes as she felt it was time for her to retire: no there was nothing we could do to change her mind, yes she would assist with the search process for a new executive, yes she would stay on until we found someone to take on the job, and yes she would continue to work with that person to make sure they are up to speed.

With Ann's very subtle and expert leadership, we formed a search committee and examined many candidates before unanimously deciding on Mrs. Julie Ramirez.

Julie comes to us from Senior Friendship Centers here in Fort Myers, where she has been the director of their health clinics. It was at the North Fort Myers clinic that I first met Julie when she recruited me to volunteer, which I've had the pleasure of doing for a half-day a month over the last several years.

Who are the patients that come to those clinics? The typical patient is a working adult between the age of 50 and 64, without adequate funds to afford insurance, and usually working multiple part-time jobs. In order to qualify as a patient at Senior Friendship Centers, one cannot have insurance, including Medicare or Medicaid. Did I mention, we're still looking for more volunteers to provide primary or GYN care? It only takes a half-day a month ☺.

Contrary to popular opinion, the clinics are not free, charging \$25 per visit to every patient that is seen. Utilizing that money, along with seeking out grant and donation funding, Julie helped to provide laboratory and radiology testing at no cost (or greatly reduced cost) to the patients. Many of the specialty physicians in the community donated their services through the We-Care program as well (big thank you to all of you too!).

As director of those clinics, she has become adept at dealing with medical assistance programs, patients with complicated questions and problems, physicians and politicians in our community, and of course all the business management challenges that come with managing and staying within a fixed budget. I'm sure that my description of her accomplishments here is grossly inadequate. However, of one thing I am certain, we were lucky to have had Ann and we are lucky to have found Julie, so join me in welcoming her to what will hopefully be a long and mutually rewarding relationship.

"We're Going To Ft. Myers To Start A Legacy"

Alyson Sanchious, M.D., Resident Physician, LMHS Medical Residency Program

I have been blessed with the opportunity to pursue medicine, and would not be fulfilled unless I was able to practice where my services are most needed. I firmly believe in the compelling message of Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." I chose to attend FSU College of Medicine because of its mission to produce well-rounded physicians who work in underserved communities. Similarly, I knew that I wanted to train in a family medicine residency program with a well-defined mission and aim to serve the community. During my third year of medical school I was pleasantly surprised to learn that FSU would be starting a new family medicine residency program in Ft. Myers, FL. I knew this would be a perfect fit; close to home and family for my husband and I (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), affiliated with my alma mater, and an area in need of both primary care and minority physicians.

Our residency program has the dual benefit of being supported by the Lee Memorial Health System and Florida State University. Therefore, we get the support and resources of a large academic institution while being integrated into a close-knit medical community down here in Ft Myers. As an FSU sponsored program, some of the greatest benefits include access to one of the largest online medical libraries in the country, free subscriptions to numerous medical applications and online resources, and participation in well-established global health outreach programs. Even more special for me is my ability to remain in close contact with mentors and friends who were a significant part of my medical school career. This year alone I have already had the opportunity to return to Tallahassee for a residency fair and attend a statewide meeting where I was able to recruit medical students and reunite with faculty and past classmates.

As I said on National Match Day, "We're going to Ft. Myers to start a legacy." At the time I didn't realize how wonderfully that statement would manifest in my life. My husband and I have both set roots in our careers and have started to make Ft. Myers our home. Within the residency program, my greatest fulfillment has come from the continuity of care we provide patients, even across different rotations. During my time on OB I've had the opportunity to bond with first time parents during the labor and delivery process. I get such joy each time they return to see me in outpatient clinic, bringing their son for his well-child checks. It's as if I have become an extended part of the family.

I am thankful, excited, and humbled to be a part of the legacy of the FSU/Lee Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program here in Fort Myers. As residents, our input and opinions are highly sought after to continue building and improving the program. For example, we now have international medicine and sports medicine tracks as a result of residents' interests and requests. I look forward to what the future holds for my family, my career, my patients, my colleagues, and the residency program.

MEASLES CASE REPORTED TO LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

By Florida Department of Health, Office of Communications

TALLAHASSEE—A confirmed case of measles in a 15 year old male traveler was reported to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. While infectious, the traveler visited local attractions and businesses between January 1–3, 2015, before leaving the state by plane on January 3. The Department has notified places the patient may have visited, individuals who may have been exposed and health care providers in both counties. The Department is also working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify and notify persons possibly exposed during airline travel.

“We are currently working closely with local community partners and CDC to identify any other potential cases,” said Deputy Secretary for Health and Deputy State Health Officer for Children’s Medical Services Dr. Celeste Philip. “Out of an abundance of caution, it is important for those who think they may have been exposed to contact their health care provider for guidance right away. In addition, it’s important for everyone to make sure they have received the measles vaccination because those who are fully immunized have very little risk of developing the disease.”

CHARLES S. EBY, M.D. 04/15/1936 – 12/23/2014

Charles S. Eby, M.D. passed away following some recent medical challenges on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 with his loving family by his side. He was 78 years old.

He was born on April 15, 1936 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the proud son of Virginia (Cornelius) and Charles S. Eby, Sr. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy who served his country during the Vietnam War. In 1971, he moved his family to Fort Myers to become the first Board Certified Dermatologist. His dedication to his patients and practice was evidenced by his hard work and never missing a day of work in 45 years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Baylor College of Medicine, 1 Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030

Charlie is survived by his wife Janet, daughters, Susan (Kevin) Brown, Leigh (Larry) Scrabis and Alison (Matt) Stone, several Grandchildren and Sisters, Ginger (Sam) Dugger and Millie (Wayne) Wade.

Condolences can be sent to: 16063 Forest Oaks Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908

The Lee County Medical Society expresses our deepest sympathy to his wife, Janet, children and their families. Dr. Eby was a member of the Medical Society since 1971.

Measles is very rare in countries and regions of the world where vaccination coverage is high. There are still sporadic cases of measles in the United States because travelers who are not fully immunized can become infected before or during travel abroad and spread the infection to unvaccinated or unprotected persons.

Persons generally can be considered immune to measles if they:

- Were born before 1957
- Have documentation of physician diagnosed measles
- Have serologic evidence of immunity to measles
- Have documentation of adequate vaccination (criteria for adequate vaccination depends on a person’s age)

All persons born in or after 1957 should have documentation of at least one dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine or other evidence of measles immunity. Adolescents and adults may require two doses of MMR. Children should be immunized against measles with the combination MMR vaccine. Children should receive two doses, with the first at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second at four to six years of age.

Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing and is highly contagious. It can be transmitted from four days before the rash becomes visible to four days after the rash appears. The symptoms of measles generally begin approximately seven to 14 days after a person is exposed to someone with measles, and include:

- Blotchy rash
- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Feeling run down, achy (malaise)
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers found inside the mouth (Koplik’s spots)

Anyone who has these symptoms should contact their health care provider. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html.

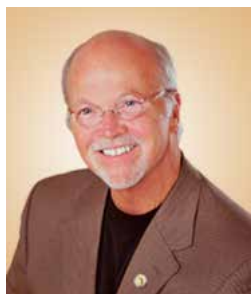
The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Department of Health please visit www.floridahealth.gov.

Happy Valentine's Day ♥

**Recruit three new members in a year
and your next year's
dues will be free of charge.**

FLORIDA BOARD OF MEDICINE



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the members of the Florida Board of Medicine, I send best wishes for a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year to Florida's medical community.

Your board is comprised of twelve physicians and three consumer members. All are appointed by Florida's governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate to regulate the profession of medicine in our state. Like most of you, my physician colleagues and I are engaged in the full-time practice of medicine. Our consumer members are dedicated public servants committed to ensuring the highest level of quality medical care and safety for Floridians.

Together, we experience and understand the ever increasing daily responsibilities and challenges facing physicians, physician assistants and the entire medical community. We also understand the trust, honor and sense of fulfillment that emanates from the special privilege of caring for our friends, neighbors, and fellow Floridians.

As incoming Chair, I would like to sincerely thank our immediate past Chairman, Dr. Nabil El Sanadi, along with my fellow board members, our counsel, and board staff for their tireless work to ensure that the highest quality of medical care is being practiced in Florida.

Over 68,000 doctors are currently licensed in the state of Florida. The board's role is to facilitate physicians to do what they have dedicated their lifetime to – "practice quality medicine." While the

overwhelming majority of physicians will never be involved in a disciplinary proceeding, our board is charged by Florida's Legislature as a quasi-judicial body with disciplinary responsibility.

We are privileged to have a team of hard-working professional staff led by André Ourso, J.D., our incoming Executive Director. Please know that your board office stands ready to address any of your questions or concerns related to Florida's rules that govern the practice of medicine. When communicating with the board or staff, you can expect honest, respectful and professional interaction.

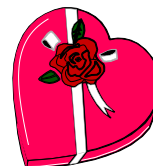
As incoming Chair, I hope to increase physician awareness of the important rules governing our profession. We will continue to streamline board processes and efficiencies as we fulfill our mission to promote, protect, and improve the health of all Floridians.

We certainly welcome your thoughts, suggestions and comments for improving the Florida Board of Medicine. Please feel free to contact Ms. Crystal A. Sanford, our Program Operations Administrator, at Crystal.Sanford@flhealth.gov.

I am honored and humbled with the opportunity to serve as your Chair of the Florida Board of Medicine.

Again, best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2015.

Sincerely,
James W. Orr, Jr., MD, FACOG, FACS
Chairman, Florida Board of Medicine



Volunteers Needed for Medical Mission Trip

Love A Child's Mobile Medical Mission Trip to Haiti February 7-14, 2015. Florida Missionaries Bobby and Sherry Burnette have hosted hundreds (and hundreds!) of safe mobile medical clinic mission teams in Haiti since 1972 and have lived in Haiti full-time since 1991. For additional information, please visit www.loveachild.com. Or you may contact me in Love A Child's Fort Myers support office weekdays, 8 AM to 5 PM by calling 239-210-6107 or by e-mailing to shar@lachaiti.org.

Please see insert included in the February issue of the Bulletin.



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Lee County Medical Society & LCMS Alliance Installation



Ira A. Zucker, M.D. was presented with the Award for Citizenship & Community Service



Joseph P. Walker, M.D. & Glenn L. Wing, M.D. were presented with The Scientific Achievement Award

2015 LCMS Alliance Installation of Officers
 Lisa Tritel, President; Vicki Sweet, President-Elect; Mary Macchiaroli, Recording Secretary; Juli Bobman, Corresponding Secretary; Angela AbuShahin, Treasurer



Gary A. Goforth, M.D. was presented The Award for Health Education.



Jacob H. Goldberger, M.D. was presented the Leadership & Professionalism Award.

2015 Installation of LCMS Officers
 Past-President, Audrey Farahmand, M.D. installs the 2015 Board: Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, M.D., President; Shari Skinner, M.D., President-Elect; Jon Burdzy, D.O., Treasurer; Joanna Carioba, M.D.; Chelsey Scheiner, D.O., Resident Physician & Stuart Bobman, M.D., Legislative Chair; not present were, F. Rick Palmon, M.D.; Daniel de la Torre, M.D.; Lynne Einbinder, M.D., E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O., HAPP Chair; Paul Makhoulf, M.D.; Cherrie Morris, M.D.; Kultar Singh, M.D., Darius Biskup, M.D., E & J Affairs Chair and Richard Macchiaroli, M.D., Delegates Chair



Mark M. Geisler was presented the Distinguished Layperson's Service Award.



Barbara Siegel, wife of the late Alan D. Siegel, M.D. was presented the award "In Memory of an Outstanding Physician Award.



Emcees for the evening were:
 Rachel Pierce of NBC2 &
 Craig R. Sweet, M.D., Awards Chair

Clifford W. Smith was awarded the Distinguished Layperson's Service Award. Clifford was unable to attend due to illness.



Announcement of Officers & the Fifth Annual Medical Service Awards



LCMS welcomes our new Executive Director Julie Ramirez and her husband Jesse.



Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, 2015 LCMS President giving outgoing President, Peggy Mouracade, M.D. a gift from the LCMS



Lisa Tritel, 2015 LCMS Alliance President present to Shari Skinner, M.D., Wife of Brian Kelley, outgoing LCMS Alliance President with a commemorative clock for his year as President.



Dr. Oakes-Lottridge, 2015 incoming President presents Peggy Mouracade, M.D. with a plaque to commemorate her year as President.



Peggy Mouracade, M.D., outgoing President and her husband Tom.



Mark Loren Raffle winners were presented their fabulous jewelry by Elaine Leon of Mark Loren Designs



Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, M.D., 2015 LCMS President



Entertainment for the evening was provided by: Boz & Bon Togethera Forevah Band



Thank You to our 2015 Sponsors and to Mark Loren Design Who Donated a Piece of Fine Jewelry to The LCMS Alliance Foundation to be Raffle Off with Proceeds Going to ACT, Abuse Counseling Treatment Center - \$2060



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Leon

FABULOUS PLACE TO DINE

Recently I received a call from the Medical Society own "Jean Le Boeuf". I'm taking you to lunch today to the Mad Fresh Bistro. Wow! What a wonderful lunch and the company/conversation was the best.

Rating: Beyond Fabulous.

Next, we visited the New England Bakery & Café where we were treated with mouth watering loaves of Artesian White Bread (great for French toast) .

Rating: Beyond Fabulous.

Thanks "Jean Le Boeuf" You are # 1.

Ann & Staff

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TELEMEDICINE: EMERGING RISKS

by Richard Cahill, JD, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, The Doctors Company

In Hamilton County Hospital in rural Kansas, a human-size robot wanders the hall with cameras and a tablet mounted at eye level. By using this device, doctors from across the county can view and treat patients remotely.¹ In another venue, the medical group has asked to use Skype to communicate and evaluate patients remotely. While these remarkable technologies hold great promise, they can also create significant liability risks. Do you understand the limits and possible risks of using these technologies?

The concept of telemedicine has evolved rapidly over the last 20 years and has now become part of everyday vocabulary. With the advent of the Internet, new platforms have expanded the use and effectiveness of telemedicine and enhanced the delivery of healthcare across the country. However, numerous federal and state statutes have been enacted that pose significant risks to medical practitioners who engage in any form of telemedicine.

Telemedicine Defined

Telemedicine involves the delivery of healthcare to patients in remote locations and to underserved patient populations through a variety of electronic modalities, including audio-visual, online, and wireless applications. Depending on the need, telemedicine can provide remote monitoring as well as real-time interactions with physicians and mid-level practitioners. The advantages of telemedicine include improved access to medical care and consultation in rural areas, more efficient treatment plan implementation, cost savings for patients, and increased patient satisfaction. Many medical specialties—including cardiology, pathology, psychiatry, and radiology, among others—have embraced the concept on a national basis.

Security and Privacy Issues

Despite the obvious advantages of using various forms of telemedicine, the medical community must become knowledgeable about federal and state regulatory policies and requirements that can affect its practices. For example, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is particularly relevant. Enacted by Congress and subsequently signed into law by President Clinton in 1996, HIPAA has two principal components: Title I protects healthcare coverage for individuals when they change employment or lose their jobs. Title II established, for the first time, national standards for the electronic transmission of patient health information and the prevention of healthcare fraud and abuse.

The Privacy Rule, which became effective in 2003, regulates the use and disclosure of personal health information (PHI). PHI concerns health status, care, or payment and is very broadly interpreted to include such common identifiers as name, date of birth, Social Security number, and residence address. The Privacy Rule identifies certain types of authorized disclosures that are either mandatory (including patient requests and legally imposed duties to report) or permissive (including uses to facilitate treatment, healthcare operations, or payment). Under the United States Department of Justice, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is authorized to conduct investigations and impose monetary sanctions for violations.

Congress significantly expanded the scope of HIPAA in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Title XIII, commonly referred to as HITECH (the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act), introduced government-mandated requirements for breach notification, authorized random audits by the OCR, imposed substantially enhanced penalties for statutory violations, and specified that all transmissions of PHI must be “secure.” *Secure* has been interpreted to mean that such communications will be encrypted. In the first year of enforcement, the OCR reported the recovery of more than \$7 billion in penalties and fines.

With the advent of electronic health records (EHRs), the transmission of PHI between patients and providers, providers and payers, and among providers has significantly increased. Practices that engage in any form of electronic data transfers, including telemedicine, must strictly comply with the various statutory requirements of HIPAA and HITECH or risk an OCR investigation and potential fines.

Licensing Issues

Historically, physicians and other healthcare professionals have been licensed exclusively by state boards of practice. Physicians who engage in telemedicine across state lines, therefore, face a number of serious considerations. The scope of practice is generally determined by the location of the patient. Laws governing the practice of medicine vary significantly among the states.

Providing care, including the prescription of medication and other controlled substances, to a patient located in a different jurisdiction requires the practitioner to satisfy the licensing requirements of the state in which the patient is located. Without proper licensure, adverse consequences might include criminal prosecution for the unlicensed practice of medicine, disciplinary action by a medical board, and mandatory reporting to the

Continued on Page 10



LCMS Friends in Medicine

LCMS Friends in Medicine program is open to area businesses that can offer member only benefits and discounts. We encourage our members to patronize these businesses that have been selected by the LCMS for their outstanding services and products.



National Practitioner Data Bank, as well as to CMS, professional medical societies, and private payers. Additionally, adverse findings or actions by any of these entities may require self-reporting to state boards or other entities on subsequent credentialing applications for staff privileges.

A physician who provides medical care across state lines through any form of telemedicine may also be subject to a potential malpractice suit in the event a claim is filed in the jurisdiction where the patient resides, rather than in the jurisdiction where the provider maintains his or her offices. Undoubtedly, the standard of care will be determined by experts familiar with the community practices in the jurisdiction where the patient is located. Arguably, any tort reform statutes that exist in the jurisdiction where the suit is filed may not be available to a provider who is not licensed in that state.

Professional Liability

And finally, professional liability policies generally specify that indemnity coverage is only available for a claim that occurs in a specific territory or jurisdiction. A physician sued in a state other than the covered territory may find that no coverage is available to either defend the claim or pay indemnity if there is an adverse judgment.

Patient Safety Tips

- Comply with HIPAA, HITECH, and state-specific laws when transmitting all PHI.
- Ask your system vendor to provide training to you and your staff on how to protect and secure your data.
- Ensure robust and reliable high-speed broadband connectivity to support clinical functions.
- Check practice requirements and legal limitations in states where you anticipate providing care to patients. Understand reimbursement practices for telemedicine services.
- Use telemedicine carefully—and understand any limitations on the reliability and accuracy of the information.
- Communicate directly with your professional liability insurer to make certain that your policy extends coverage to all jurisdictions where you provide services.

Reference

1. Weiner LJ. Weighing telehealth's pros and cons. HealthLeaders Media website. <http://healthleadersmedia.com/content/HR-307025/Weighing-Telehealths-Prosand-Cons>. Accessed September 29, 2014.

We Appreciate Your Referrals!



From left: Kate Wagner, O.D.;
E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O.; Nina Burt, O.D.

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Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WE CARE OF LEE COUNTY

Currently operated/managed by The Salvation Army is a community supported specialty care referral and coordination system that ensures better access to healthcare services and greater continuity of care for the uninsured and underserved population in our area. Together the team is comprised of the Program Director, Program Manager, Administrative Assistant and Nurse Case Manager. Services are performed by volunteer community physicians, covered under the Florida Sovereign Immunity statute.

To help build a healthier community, emphasis must be placed on improving access to our local health systems and enhancing coordination of services for those most in need. These efforts necessitate the increasing number of physicians, health care practitioners and dentists willing to provide voluntary services to the uninsured. The continued investment from our local providers/volunteers will strengthen this coordination of care system and would be used as leverage to secure additional uncompensated care from practitioners.

Some of our supporters include the United Way, Lee County Medical Society, Lee County Dental Society, Lee Memorial Health System—Lee Community Clinics, Family Health Centers of SWFL and Department of Health (Lee County/Florida) for Sovereign Immunity (available to local volunteer practitioners and dentists).

We recently rallied the support of several community stakeholders to explore the expansion of services under the We Care program

umbrella by incorporating Project Dentists Care (PDC), a dental program offering no-cost dental services to area residents in need. Recipients of these services must meet 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and uninsured.

To date, we are excited to report that with the support of the United Way and community partners, we have incorporated PDC into the existing We Care Program; assuming all management and administrative duties. This collaboration will streamline dental services and better accommodate the increased demand by getting individuals screened promptly, decreasing the wait time from referral to appointment. As an established partnership with The Salvation Army, dental clinics will continue to operate at our Outreach Services Center.

We look forward to your support in sharing the care! Please contact Paul Whitear, Program Manager at (239) 628-1454 or (239) 233-2381.



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