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**The West
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Medical
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(WVSMA)**

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venues.**

The West Virginia State Medical Association (WVSMA) publishes the only peer-reviewed medical journal in West Virginia (**WV Medical Journal**).

An online newsletter (**WESGRAM**) sent via email to keep physicians and office staff abreast of the latest healthcare changes, including payor information, CMS, AMA and coding updates, as well as upcoming educational events.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION WINNING DOWN.
The Legislature will conclude its session on Monday, April 11, 2011. The House will vote on the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The Senate will vote on the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The Governor will sign the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

THE COMMISSION REPORTS TO 'CLARIFY' PHYSICIAN PROVIDER TAX LAW.
The Commission on Health Care Reform has issued its report to the Legislature regarding the clarification of the physician provider tax law. The report states that the Commission has identified several areas of ambiguity in the current law and has proposed amendments to clarify the law. The Commission's report will be submitted to the Legislature for its consideration.

Are you receiving emails from the WVSMA? If not, you are missing out on important information about issues that impact your practice.
With the Legislative Session underway, you will receive timely communications from the WVSMA through the publication of the Medical Advocate on a weekly basis.

Make sure you don't miss out! Send your e-mail address to info@wvsma.com.

COM BILL REQUIRES MONITORING IN HOUSE.
The House will vote on the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The Senate will vote on the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The Governor will sign the final bill for the 2011 session, the Health Care Reform Act, which will be signed into law by the Governor on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

A seasonal newsletter highlighting healthcare policy issues addressed by the West Virginia State Legislature (**Medical Advocate**).

Professional Directory

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The Loop Pharmacy is a full service pharmacy located in the heart of Morgantown, West Virginia. We offer a wide variety of services including: • Prescription services • Immunizations • Health insurance services • Medicare/Medicaid services • Pharmacy services • Home medical services • Delivery services • Compounding services • Specialty services • Health insurance services • Medicare/Medicaid services • Pharmacy services • Home medical services • Delivery services • Compounding services • Specialty services

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NEUROLOGY
ALVARO R. GUTIERREZ, MD
MDS, PhD
Dr. Alvaro R. Gutierrez is a board certified neurologist and a board eligible neurophysiologist. He completed his medical education at the University of Puerto Rico and his neurology residency at the University of Maryland. He is currently practicing in Morgantown, West Virginia.

ORTHOTICS/SYNECHRONY
SCOTT A. NAGELLE, MD, PLLC
Dr. Scott A. Nagelle is a board certified orthopedic surgeon and a board eligible orthopedic surgeon. He completed his medical education at the University of West Virginia and his orthopedic residency at the University of Maryland. He is currently practicing in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The **Professional Directory** is published in six issues of the **West Virginia Medical Journal**.



Advertising Rates



Color Rates

Four color, back cover	\$1300 ea.
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Full page b/w	\$600	\$540	\$480
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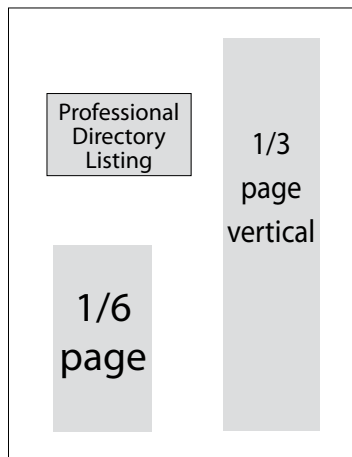
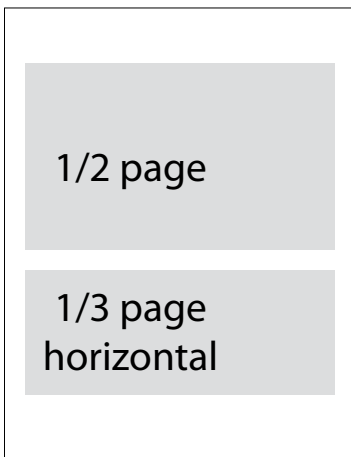
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Printing Specifications

17x11 flat-4C; Finish: 8.5x11; **Cover:** 100lb Sterling Ultra Gloss Text Bleeds; **Inside:** 60lb Sterling Ultra Gloss Text -- Bleeds; **Binding:** Saddle Stitch



Editorial Calendar (subject to change)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 12

- The Relationship Between Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase Levels and Chronic Kidney Disease Among Appalachian Adults
- The Relationship Between Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase Levels and Chronic Kidney Disease Among Appalachian Adult
- Ectopic Production of HCG by a Benign Ovarian Mature Cystic Teratoma Simulating an Extra-uterine Pregnancy: a Case Report
- Gender and Geographic Differences in CAD Risk Factors and CHADS₂ Scores in Atrial Fibrillation Patients
- Identification of Genes Contributing to Cardiovascular Disease in Overweight and Obese Individuals from West Virginia
- Strongyloides Hyperinfection Syndrome Complications: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

MARCH/APRIL 12

- Optimum Utilization of Cholecystokinin Cholescintigraphy (CCK-HIDA) in Clinical Practice: An Evidence-Based Review
- Intact Bronchogenic Cyst Provoking a Pleural Effusion
- Moyamoya in a non-Asian Patient: a Case Report and Literature Review
- Hepatitis C (HCV) Treatment is Not a "One Size Fits All"
- Acromegaly Caused by Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone (GHRH) Secreting Tumor in Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia (MEN-1)
- Physician-Patient Communication: Breaking Bad News
- Schwannoma of the Ulnar Nerve: A Case Report and Review of the Literature

MAY/JUNE 12 CME SPECIAL ISSUE

(ART, SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF PREVENTION)

The May/June issues of the *West Virginia Medical Journal* are reserved for themed CME issues. Submission deadlines generally end in early December. Reviews are completed and returned to authors by the first of February to allow time for resubmissions.

TBA

EDITORIAL CONTENT — Scientific and special articles, case reports and reviews, editorials, medical, association and medical school news, President's, Editor's, Alliance and Agency, Physician Practice Advocate pages, and physician obituaries.

CIRCULATION — Average - 2,500 West Virginia physician members and subscribers.

JULY/AUGUST 12 (short titles)

- ACL Injuries in Collegiate Population
- Hemangioma of the Scrotal Septum
- Unusual Form of Listerial CNS Infection
- Frontotemporal Lobar Dementia
- Automated External Defibrillators in WV Schools
- Smoking During Pregnancy...WV Adolescents

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 12 (short titles)

- Intralobar Bronchopulmonary Sequestration in Adults Over Age 50: Case Series & Review of the Literature
- Invasive Pneumococcal Disease
- Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy (Broken Heart Syndrome)
- Neurotherapy for Epilepticus
- To Scan or Not to Scan
- Mildly Reduced EF and Post CABG Stroke

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 12 (short titles)

- Marijuana Induced Hyperemesis
- Tabletop Scenarios in Bioterrorism
- Stroke in Children
- Thoracolumbar Burst Fractures Treated with Verte-Span Titanium Cage
- Idiopathic Nontraumatic Spontaneous Renal Hemorrhage
- Chronic Pulmonary Dysfunction : Inhalation of Butyl Acrylate

RESERVATION DEADLINES

Issue	Close Date
Jan/Feb	Dec. 1, 2011
Mar/Apr	Feb. 1, 2012
May/June <i>(The Art, Science and Ethics of Prevention)</i>	Apr. 2, 2012
July/Aug	June 4, 2012
Sept/Oct	Aug. 1, 2012
Nov/Dec	Oct. 1, 2012

Angie Lanham, Managing Editor
angie@wvsmj.com
(304) 925-0342, ext. 20

From: Barbara Good [mailto:amy@wvsmma.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2011 2:22 PM
To: Angie Lanham
Subject: Wesgram Online

WESGRAM



NEWSLETTER OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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Latest 2012 Medicare Reimbursement News

As most of you are aware, the 2012 Medicare fee schedule was scheduled to be reduced by 27.4% unless Congress acted to avoid the fee cuts. **The WVSMA has been closely following the actions of Congress in order to keep our physicians and their practices updated. The following summary, provided by the AMA, explains what has transpired most recently.**

On Tuesday, December 20th, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected a Senate bill that would have averted a 27.4 percent Medicare physician payment cut scheduled for Jan. 1 and extended an expiring payroll tax reduction and unemployment insurance benefits. The net result was to leave 2012 Medicare payment rates in limbo.

Votes on H.R. 3690: As originally passed by the House Dec. 13 by a vote of 234-193, the House's version of the bill would have provided Medicare physician payment updates of 1 percent a year for two years, followed by a return to the current negative trend line produced by the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula. But as a result of disagreements over financial offsets and other policy issues unrelated to the SGR, the legislation could not attract a sufficient number of votes to pass the Senate.

On Dec. 17 the Senate voted 89-10 to pass an amended version of the bill that would extend all the expiring policies—including current Medicare physician payment rates—for two months. The rationale for the short-term extension was to avoid disruptions on Jan. 1 and provide time for further negotiations on financing longer-term extensions.

House action on Dec. 20: Following the Senate's action, a significant number of House Republicans expressed strong opposition to the two-month extension, and several relevant votes were scheduled for today. In the most important vote, the House approved by a vote of 229-193 a resolution that disagrees with the Senate and calls for appointing members to a House-Senate conference committee, which is charged with working out differences between the two versions of the bill.

Prior to the House votes, Senate leadership announced that the Senate would not reconvene over the holidays to engage in further negotiations and votes. In addition, members of the House are departing this evening for the holidays with the understanding that they could be called back to Washington, D.C., on short notice.

At this time, it does not appear likely that the outstanding issues will be resolved before Jan. 1.

Outlook for January: On Dec. 19 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that it would hold claims for 2012 physician services for 10 business days—until Jan. 17—to avoid processing payments at the lower rate. After that date, claims will be processed on a first-in, first-paid basis at the reduced rates until the situation is resolved.

The House currently is scheduled to return to Washington on Jan. 17, while the Senate is scheduled to return on Jan. 23. However, there are reports that the House may move the date of its return up to Jan. 3.

AMA views: The AMA issued strong statements following the House and Senate votes, reaffirming its opposition to any short-term patches to the SGR formula, denouncing the political brinkmanship that left the issue unresolved until Congress was adjourning, and calling for a bipartisan effort to repeal the flawed and disruptive formula once and for all.

Throughout the year, the AMA has been pursuing a strategy to repeal the SGR that was developed in consultation with state medical societies and national medical specialty societies. We continued to oppose short-term remedies that serve to make future cuts deeper and the cost of permanent payment reform increasingly steep.

Throughout the year, bicameral and bipartisan support has been expressed in Congress for permanently addressing the Medicare physician payment crisis. Nevertheless, physicians and their patients once again find themselves confronting uncertainty and instability. It is long past time for Congress to act decisively and protect access to care for senior citizens and military families who rely on TRICARE—they and their physicians deserve better.

December 21, 2011

Inside this issue

- Latest 2012 Medicare Reimbursement News
- Attendees Praise WVSMA's 2012 Coding and Medicare Update!
- Medicare News
- Health and Human Services Update
- Palmetto GBA News
- AMA Introduces "My Medications" App for Patients
- Happy Holidays!

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Publication
frequency may
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upon the
amount of new
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Medical Advocate

Legislative News of the

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

2 col x 10" = 6.5625" x 10" \$600		1 col x 10" = 3.0625" x 10" \$400	
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The *Medical Advocate* is published 1-3 times per year. Additional weekly issues are published as e-newsletters. Please refer to *WESGRAM* newsletters for file requirements and pricing for online newsletters.

Professional Directory

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The **Professional Directory** is published in the *West Virginia Medical Journal*, our bi-monthly, peer-reviewed medical journal.

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