



Message from the Chair – May, 2011

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Dear Colleague:

Having just returned from the unSUMMIT 2011 barcode point-of-care conference in Louisville, I'd like to share a few observations on the state of barcode medication administration (BCMA):

- There are still a lot of hospitals that are just getting started on their BCMA implementations. It will be interesting to see if resources are diverted as facilities focus on Meaningful Use Phase I.
- Though the retail (grocery) industry determined how to make barcodes work on aluminum cans almost forty years ago, drug manufacturers struggle to put reliable barcodes on foil packs today.
- It has been five years since the FDA barcode label requirements were passed but pharmacies are still spending a significant amount of time, capital, and human resources on barcode packaging and relabeling.

Though many hospitals have had BCMA systems implemented for ten years or more, we have a long way to go before hospitals without BCMA are the rare exception. The 2010 "[ASHP national survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings](#)" shows that 34.5% of US hospitals have implemented BCMA.

Speaking of conferences, be sure to register for the ASHP Summer Meeting 2011 from June 12-15 in Denver, Colorado. There are 14 hours of informatics programming, with topics such as:

- IV robotics and sterile compounding / USP <797>
- Meaning use and the EHR
- Technology and the future pharmacy practice model
- Optimizing automation and technology beyond the basics
- Credentialing of Informaticists
- Using mobile devices and social media to enhance professionalism
- CPOE order sets / third-party solutions

- Management case studies – informatics

To learn more about how ASHP has "elevated" the Summer Meeting and to register and reserve your place in the sky, visit <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/SM2011/Informatics-Program-Announcement.aspx>.

The [Proceedings of Pharmacy Practice Model Summit](#) are available at AJHP Online, so please take time to review the proceedings and recommendations for our future practice models. The editors of *AJHP* on April 20 released the Proceedings of the Pharmacy Practice Model Summit eight weeks ahead of print in the June 15 issue. I would recommend that all Section members review the technology recommendations, overview of the technology/pharmacy technician plenary session, and the technology briefing document. I would like to thank Chris Fortier, Mark Siska, and Dennis Tribble for their contributions. Consider sharing what you are doing to change your practice model on [ASHP Connect](#).

We continue with our Section Advisory Group spotlight this month with a report from the [SAG on Clinical Information Systems \(CIS\)](#) led by Chair Nancy Smestad and Vice-Chair Lynn Ethridge. Highlights from this advisory group's accomplishments this year include:

- **Survey on the Role of Pharmacy Technicians in Informatics** – Survey was completed in November 2010 and presented at the 2010 MCM as a Networking Session by Nancy Smestad.
- **Networking Session at the MCM on the Role of Pharmacy Technicians in Informatics** – Feedback received from the participants in the networking session included drafting an ASHP Statement on the Role of Pharmacy Technicians in Informatics. Nancy Smestad and Trinh Le are working on the draft statement.
- **Meaningful Use Summary Tool for Pharmacists** – Maren Everton, Mohammed Siddiqui, Dick Jacobs, Kelly Duarte and Randy Herring developed the summary tool.
- **Meaningful Use Resource Web Resource Page** – Resource page was completed in December 2010 by Mohammed Siddiqui and will launch on the Section's website in May 2011.
- **Meaningful Use Criteria as Core-Menu-Quality** - Core Menu criteria completed in December 2010 by Maren Everton, Dick Jacobs, Kelly Duarte and Randy Herring
- **Completed interviews on Pharmacy Resources in Informatics** – Completed by Sylvia Thomley in February 2011. Data compiled and will be used on the Section's [Member Spotlight](#) and an upcoming issue of ASHP's *InterSections*.
- **Developed survey on Clinical Decision Support Alerts**- Bruce Chaffee and work group developed this CDS Survey to be scheduled for May 2011.

- ASHP Webinar titled “[Meaningful Use - Summary Tools for Pharmacists](#)” – Presented on April 5 by Maren Everton, Mohammed Siddiqui and Kelly Duarte

Many thanks to the leadership provided by Nancy and Lynn and to the CSI workgroup members for their dedicated support and effort to the Section this past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ubovski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

For more information about the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology, please visit our website at www.ashp.org/informatics.