

Message from the Section Chair



Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for electing me to serve as the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioner's Executive Committee Chair. I look forward to representing you and continuing the great work that you and our section leaders have started over the last few years. As I noted in my election ballot comments, our section serves a unique role for ASHP in that we all provide patient care services in a variety of environments and are daily supporting patients as they deal with the complex continuity of care issues in their lives. In addition, our section members represent the environments where many of the evolving issues around pharmacist reimbursement for cognitive services are evolving and adapting to the changing opportunities. And of course there is Part D and the myriad of challenges this has presented for all of us. This prescription drug benefit has impacted pharmacy practice in ways that were expected and unexpected, and you the members have helped to ensure that ASHP is an advocate on the right issues for all of us.

During our June 2006 section executive committee meeting; which includes Carol Rollins (AZ), MaryAnn Kliethermes (IL), Sandra Chase (MI), Tim Brown (OH), and Sharm Steadman (SC); we reviewed the Section's Needs Assessment Survey that many of you completed. This survey helped identify the areas for us to focus on and the means that you would like to receive information. I am committed to making these ideas a reality. We know from the survey that some of the programs our executive committee and advisory groups have been working on will be addressing feedback from the survey, and we will be developing additional programs for the items that were new to this survey.

Some of the programs that are in the works, which I hope you will find useful for your practice, include the following:

Ambulatory Care Workshop 2006: "Reimbursement Documentation Essentials and Understanding Grant Opportunities for Practice Growth"

Reimbursement for cognitive services remains a top priority for pharmacists and ASHP. After a successful workshop at the MCM2005, ASHP's Section Advisory Group on Reimbursement for Cognitive Services has organized this year's workshop for Level II practitioners with experience working in an ambulatory/primary care environment and is familiar with basic billing practices and terminology used in medical reimbursement. This workshop will focus on the challenges of receiving reimbursement, effective documentation, and understanding the grant process as it pertains to finding sources to help grow or establish a practice.

Continuity of Care: A National Agenda and the Role of Pharmacists

At the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, the section's programming committee has been working on a full day of education on continuity of care. It will include a kick off presentation of ASHP's "Continuity of Care in medication therapy management: Review of issues and considerations for pharmacy" and a journey of a patient case study with an hour presentation through five practice areas (5 hrs C.E.) Emergency Department, Hospital Admission, Nursing Home, Home Care, and Ambulatory.

Medication Therapy Management: Cutting Edge Practices, Shifting Paradigms, and Tools for Practice Development

This series of programs at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will give the participants an array of knowledge in expanding medication therapy management programs. A Cutting Edge in Ambulatory Care (1.5 C.E.) provides participants with four presenters sharing details of their practice and how they successfully achieved their goals. A second program (2.0 C.E.) will explore the shifting paradigm that pharmacists are finding themselves in obtaining reimbursement for clinical services, and will challenge the participants to consider alternate models. A third program (3.0 C.E.) will review the current status of MTM, discuss "tools of the trade" in managing patient information, and provide case studies methodology to show how to ensure consistency in interventions and quality of documentation required for reimbursement.

Pain Management and Palliative Care Workshop 2006

Pain management and palliative care is regularly recognized as a priority area of continued professional development by ASHP's members. The ASHP Pain Management and Palliative Care Task Force has organized this interactive workshop for Level II practitioners with experience working in a direct patient care environment and are familiar with basic pain management concepts, pharmacology of medications used for

pain management, and the concepts of palliative care. This workshop will utilize case studies and be led by highly experienced practitioners and facilitators in this field of practice.

I look forward to a very productive year for our section! And thank you in advance for your participation in making our section a success for our peers as we do our work for our patients!

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Sasser, R.Ph.

Chair, Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners (2006-2007)

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