



Washington State Orthopaedic Association

Newsletter

September 2008

WSOA Leadership

Walter Kregel MD
President

John Adkison MD
1st Vice President
& AAOS Councilor

Lyle Sorensen MD
2nd Vice President

Patrick Halpin MD
Secretary/Treasurer
& AAOS Councilor

Edward Farrar MD
Immediate Past
President

Robert Yancey MD
Director

Chris Kontogianis
MD
Director

Tom Deagan MD
Director

WSOA Board Meeting Minutes

[April 2008](#)
[February 2008](#)
[January 2008](#)

WSOA-BFOA Legal Defense Fund

**Please Make Your
Contribution
Today!**

Ten percent of your

Self Referral Legislation

On July 23, the WSMA met with leaders of several specialty societies to discuss the self-referral issues at hand. Here is a brief recap summarized by Brian Wicks, WSMA President:

Points of agreement:

1. There are legitimate concerns about advance imaging modalities including patient safety, quality, over-utilization and cost.
2. It appears in the latest Medicare bill that CMS will become involved in credentialing of technical staff and equipment for such services.
3. Utilization guidelines should come from the House of Medicine through exhaustive work already done, or in progress, within specialty societies.
4. Guidelines should apply uniformly to state and commercial payors and to both inpatient and outpatient settings.
5. Compliance with the guidelines should be sufficient for payment; prior authorization ought not to be required.
6. Self-referral per se, is not the problem; transparency of ownership and charges is important and necessary - for both inpatient and outpatient settings.
7. Rigid legislative solutions are best avoided.
8. Time is short - Rep. Cody expects a proposal from us by Fall.

At issue is how to proceed:

The WSMA Executive Committee, at its July 20 meeting, came to the conclusion that the best way to proceed is with two well-defined pieces of legislation, and rule making by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC).

1. First, use the Health Care Authority (HCA) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process, which already has the authority to determine payment policies used by three state agencies (Labor & Industries, Medicaid and the Uniform Medical Plan). We also would seek to extend the application of those determinations to the commercial payors by means of rule making by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC), in the interest of standardization of process in order reduce the administrative hassles imposed on our office by multiple programs and requirements around utilization of advanced imaging services.

contribution will go towards a newly created WSOA Advocacy Fund to help with future advocacy and defense funds efforts. Send your check or credit card information to WSOA-BFOA Legal Defense Fund, c/o WSMA, 2033 Sixth Ave., Suite 1100, Seattle WA 98121. Or call the WSOA office at 206-956-3642 or [email](#) Executive Administrator Darla White.

The HTA Committee has already made payment policies on upright MRI, bariatric surgery, lumbar fusion surgery, Computed Tomographic Colonography, and Discography, which have been generally well received by the relevant medical communities. Topics scheduled for review later this year include implantable infusion pumps, arthroscopic surgery of the knee, artificial discs, Computed Tomographic Angiography, and Cardiac Stent.

This approach will require discrete legislation, prudently crafted, but which builds on an existing framework which explicitly involves inquiry into evidence based medicine and which has the ability to change its determinations as new information becomes available. As the legislation that created the HTA is already codified in statute, modification or extension should not be seen as controversial.

With your support, we can proceed to flesh out this proposal, make contacts in Olympia and thereby test the waters there.

2. Additional legislation, also well delineated, to compel transparency of ownership and charges also will be required.

Register Today

WSOA Annual Meeting

November 15-16, 2008

Nov. 15, 7:30-5:00pm,

Bell Harbor International Conference Center Reception immediately following at the World Trade Center, Seattle

Nov. 16, 7:00am continental breakfast followed by the Board of Directors/General Meeting. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

Register today at www.wsoa.org or [click here](#) for a registration form. [View a meeting flyer](#).

For more information, call Darla White at 206-956-3642 or email ddw@wsma.org

Please discuss this issue, and these areas of consensus and recommendations with your colleagues and provide us with specific feedback as soon as possible.

Email your responses to: President@wsma.org

You're Invited! The WSMA Annual Meeting

Don't miss the Washington State Medical Association Annual Meeting, Sept. 26-28, The Davenport Hotel, Spokane. On Saturday afternoon from 4-6pm, the WSOA will host a reception (non WSOA members OK!) to acknowledge WSOA membership suggestions and concerns as well as provide an update on State Association issues. Come have a cold beer or a glass of wine, some great food, and catch up on what's happening with WSOA! The association appreciates your support! For more information or to RSVP call Darla White at 206-956-3642. ([click here for invite](#))

DME Accreditation - Update

On September 3, 2008, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted a special Open Door Forum on Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics and Orthotics Suppliers (DMEPOS) accreditation as it relates to the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). MIPPA states that accreditation standards should not be applied to health professionals unless CMS has specific guidelines for health professionals and gives CMS the authority to further exempt professionals from the accreditation. Prior to MIPPA, there were three accreditation deadlines:

After March 1, 2008: New physicians who wish to enroll in Medicare and supply DMEPOS must be accredited prior to submitting an enrollment application.

Jan. 1, 2009: Physicians who wish to supply DMEPOS for the first time between Jan. 1, 2008, and Feb. 29, 2008, must be accredited prior to this date.

Past WSOA Newsletters

[August 2008](#)

[June 2008](#)
[April 2008](#)
[March 2008](#)

PA's Now Eligible for WSOA Affiliate Membership

The WSOA Board of Directors recently approved the membership of physician assistants in the WSOA. Please encourage your PAs staff members to join. [Click here](#) for a WSOA physician assistant membership application. Once completed, fax it to 206-441-5863, or mail with your check or credit card information to 2033 Sixth Ave. Suite 1100, Seattle, WA 98121.

Sept. 30, 2009: Date by which all physicians who are DMEPOS must be accredited.

At this time, CMS has stated that physician and licensed healthcare professionals are exempted from all of these deadlines unless CMS develops new quality standards applicable to those exempted providers. Currently, CMS has no timeframe scheduled to develop new quality standards for exempted providers. CMS advises exempted professionals to continue to bill as usual using their DME supplier number. For those professionals currently in the process of accreditation, CMS urges practices to contact the accreditation organization to make a decision on whether to continue the process. This is a practice decision; however, as a result of this announcement, CMS has informed accreditation organizations that practices have the ability to withdraw from the process.

For more information, go to
www.cms.hhs.gov/medicareprovidersupenroll

 Leah Cohen
 Govt. Affairs Representative Midwest & Western Sections
 Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)
 Washington DC
lcohen@mgma.com

Call for Volunteers: AAOS Annual Meeting Committee

October 1 is the deadline to apply for one resident-at-large position on the Annual Meeting Committee. This committee is responsible for planning and implementing the Academy's Annual Meeting, and reports to both the Board of Directors and the Council on Education. Applicants must be PGY-3 or above and must provide a letter of support from the residency program director indicating support for the applicant's full participation on the committee.

Openings also exist on a number of other committees, subcommittees, councils, and advisory boards. Visit the Committee Appointment Program Web site regularly to view new openings and find one that interests you.

[Learn more and submit your application...](#)(member login required)

WSOA Offices

2033 6th Ave
 Suite 1100
 Seattle, WA 98121
 (206) 956-3642
 Fax: (206) 441-5863
www.wsoa.org

Executive
 Administrator:
 Darla White
 Email:
ddw@wsma.org

[Forward email](#)

✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to bjw@wsma.org by bjw@wsma.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Washington State Medical Association | 2033 6th Ave Ste 1100 | Seattle | WA | 98121