



MAPA News

Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

Newsletter of the Mississippi
Academy of Physician Assistants

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FEBRUARY 2009

DEA CONFERENCE May 7th, 2009

By Kimberly Gray, PA-C

I just wanted to remind everyone this month that we will be having an additional DEA Conference as an adjunct to the CME Conference in May. It will be held on the Thursday before the CME Conference and will provide the 10 credits required by the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure to maintain or obtain controlled substances prescriptive privileges. Pricing will be set and announced with the CME Brochure and will offer discounts with adjunct registration to the CME Conference. I hope to see many of you there as this will be a great opportunity not only to update our knowledge but grow as a profession.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

By Tristen Harris, PA-C

Welcome to the start of 2009 everyone! I hope that you have all had a fulfilling and peaceful holiday season, and are recharged to begin a brand new year. The last year has been a difficult one for our country and it is evident here in Mississippi. Unemployment is rising and the economy is hurting, but we must press on. People will continue to seek affordable quality health care, perhaps now more than ever. MAPA will continue to assist our members in any way we can so that you can provide your patients with the best possible care.

A few updates about recent goings-on: We will be at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 10 to meet and greet with state legislators and educate them about our profession and our mission. We welcome every PA available to come and join us to help spread the word. We will serve refreshments and breakfast in the Rotunda between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. so come and enjoy!

There are very preliminary but promising signs of a PA program

coming soon to Mississippi. MAPA is working very hard to support these efforts in any way possible, as we feel that a PA program would benefit everyone in Mississippi and is long overdue. We will keep our members updated with any new information as it becomes available.

We are also in talks with the leadership of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure to try to streamline the license renewal process. We will notify you about any changes as they are finalized and hope that we might make things easier for everyone involved.

As always, please contact MAPA with any issues you may be dealing with and we will do our best to help. Please encourage your fellow PAs to join MAPA so that we can present one strong voice to our state leaders when discussing issues about our profession. Best wishes to everyone in this New Year. May we all have good health and prosper, and may our troubles be a thing of the past. Good luck!!!



We've Moved!

MAPA invites you to bookmark our *new* Web site at www.missipas.org

MAPA

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Fax: (703) 684-1924

CURRENT MEMBERS LIST

MAPA would like to thank our members for supporting us as your representatives for PAs in the state of Mississippi. The following is a list of the current members for the 2008–2009 session. If you are a member and do not see your name on the list, please contact Krista Blanchard, Secretary at kristapac@bellsouth.net. If you are not currently a member, consider this your friendly reminder and/or invitation to join us!

Amy M. Ballard, PA-C	Kimberly Elaine Gray, PA-C	Marla L. Moore, PA-C
Krista Blanchard, PA-C	Mark Alan Griffith, PA-C	Melissa Anne Noel, PA-C
Robert Douglas Booth, PA-C	Tristen A. Harris, PA-C	Christen Marie Pacillo, PA-C
Chad M. Brooks, PA-C	Randolph H. Henderson, PA	Michael Brady Page, PA-C
Cherie Brown	Daniel Hering, PA-C	Terry Retersdorf, PA-C
Callie Covington-Nichols, PA-C	Cindi Kauveyakul-Fox, PA-C	Darell E. Shows, Sr, PA-C
Alan G. Crawford, PA-C	Jillian Rachel Larsen, PA-C	Melissa Mejias Sinopoli, PA-C
Pamela L. Davis, PA-C	Jason David Lowery, PA-C	Jose A. Sosa, PA-C
Murl Delafayette Dotson, PA-C	Angelle Peltier Lowery, PA-C	Donald Stanford, PA-C
Ronald N. Eller, Jr, PA-C	Bradley J Martin, PA-C	Kimberly Jane Struble, PA-C
Marc D. Finch, III, PA-C	Christopher K. McCarley, PA-C	Bradley Frazier Sumrall, PA-C
Charles D. Gauthier, PA-C	Andrew Haas McDermott, PA-C	Joseph Trager, MD
Gwenda Goggin, PA-C	Franklin McGrew, PA-C	Ainsley Virginia Zinn, PA-C
Amy Marie Goodin, PA-C	Lillie D. Moore, PA-C	

PA STUDENTS COMING TO MISSISSIPPI

By Ron Eller, Jr., MPAS, PA-C, CCP and Jose A. Sosa, PA-C

The Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants would like to welcome the PA students of Philadelphia University and the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB). This will be a huge leap forward for the advancement of the PA profession for our state.

After several months of collaboration between Philadelphia University and River Region Health Systems, an affiliation agreement has been reached and housing has been obtained. River Region Health System in Vicksburg, has now become a clinical training site for PA students. On January 26, 2009, two students, Rachel Snider and Priya Viayda, will start a rotation in OB/

GYN at River Region Hospital. The first student from Philadelphia University was Ronald Eller, III, MPAS, PA-C. Since his clinical rotation at River Region nearly a year ago, he has relocated to Mississippi currently practicing at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson.

Starting in 2009, there will be three students from UAB coming to Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for an eight week rotation in cardiovascular surgery. They will have the opportunity to work in all areas of CV surgery including the operating room, ICUs, and physician's office. In the operating room, they will learn to suture, harvest saphenous veins, and first assist. Our first student will be here in March. We hope the students will have a positive learning experience at Baptist Medical Center.

This will be an exciting time to increase our opportunities for exposure to the medical community. With these affiliations, other physicians will begin to notice and start to learn all that a PA can offer to their practices.

MAINTENANCE CME FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBING: CHANGES IN THE LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS

By Tristen Harris, PA-C

H. Vann Craig, M.D., Director of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (MSBML), and Rhonda Freeman, CPM, Bureau Director of the Licensure Division of the MSBML, took time from their busy schedules to meet with MAPA to discuss the educational requirements for those PAs with authority to prescribe controlled substances. In recent years, PAs who have obtained his/her initial prescribing authority have been required to submit proof of 10 hours of CME related to prescribing controlled substances. The formal regulation reads:

All physician assistants authorized to prescribe controlled substances must show proof of completing 50 hours of CME each year, 20 hours of which must be Category 1, as defined by the ACCME, and 10 hours of which must be related to the prescribing of medications with an emphasis on controlled substances.

We have been required to submit a logging form listing our hours specific to controlled substances, and certificates of completion when applicable. This has been cumbersome for PAs renewing their licenses, as well as for the staff of the MSBML to qualify those hours as acceptable. In an effort to ease the burden for everyone involved, while still maintaining the continuing education requirements set forth in the regulations, Dr. Craig and Ms. Freeman have agreed to transition to an auditing process. Rather than every PA applying for renewal having to provide proof of those 10 hours specific to controlled substances, we will simply have to check a box that states we did complete those hours as required. Over the subsequent year, the MSBML will perform a random audit of a portion PAs who have renewed, and if asked, we will need to provide documentation of those hours.

Don't forget that these 10 hours can be Category I or II, and as such may not include documentation of completion (journal articles, teaching hours, etc.).

Be sure to log your Category II hours with the NCCPA so they can easily be provided if needed. Dr. Craig and Ms. Freeman also reassured us that these activities need only to “emphasize” controlled substance prescribing. The MSBML will be generous in consideration of activities that may not be merely about prescribing controlled substances, but still address the issue in some fashion (i.e. a lecture about treating lower back pain).

So, when the time comes for your license renewal in June, if you have prescribing authority, read the application carefully. Submit only what is necessary, and be sure to keep your activities documented in the event of an audit. We are hopeful that this will simplify our renewal process this year and in years to come.

CLINICAL PEARL: THE “SINUS INFECTION”

By Tristen Harris, PA-C

A quick little pearl to get us through the winter months: In our outpatient ENT clinic, and surely in primary care clinics everywhere, people are climbing over each other to get treated for their “sinus infections”. They have nasal congestion, sneezing, sore throats, post nasal drainage, headaches, ear pressure, etc. Make no mistake, the great majority of these “infections” are viral, and require no antimicrobial treatment. The symptoms will tend to resolve spontaneously or at least begin to improve after 7 to 10 days. Symptomatic treatment with decongestants, short courses of topical nasal decongestant, saline nasal spray, and hydration are all reasonable and effective. If a patient's symptoms have persisted AND continue to worsen after 7 days, we will then start antibiotics. If a patient typically has only sporadic acute sinus infections, a 7-day course of a broad spectrum antibiotic will usually do the trick. Remember, everyone gets colds and viruses, and they cannot all possibly be sinus infections. Be sure your patients understand that time and rest is the best medicine.

MAPA ANNUAL CME CONFERENCE

By *Krista Blanchard, MPAS, PA-C*
CME Chair

Due to an overwhelmingly positive response to our conference venue last year, MAPA will be hosting our annual CME conference again on the Gulf shores in Alabama. The conference is scheduled for Friday, May 8–Sunday, May 10, 2009 at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear, AL.

There will be an opportunity for 18 Category I CME hours (pending) in various disciplines, as well as two optional workshops—suture and contract negotiation.

Additionally, the DEA Conference will be Thursday, May 7, 2009 and will offer 10 hours of Category I CME. This one-day meeting not only satisfies the requirements for first-time DEA license applicants, but also the CME hours required for license renewal. There is an opportunity for 28 Category I hours in all—not bad for 3 1/2 days!!

The DEA and CME conferences will have separate registrations, to include those PAs who may want to attend just one or the other. However, there will be a reduced rate to register for both.

The meetings will end early each day to allow time to enjoy the beach and the resort. This year we have also scheduled breakfast each morning in the exhibit hall and two 30-minute break-out sessions to allow ample time to interact with our vendors.

We are still looking for exhibitors. If your practice involves interacting with pharmaceutical representatives, please invite them to exhibit at the meeting. The exhibitor prospectus can be viewed and printed from MAPA's website.

For more information, go to MAPA's website at www.missipas.org or visit the hotel's website at www.marriottgrand.com. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact me at kristapac@bellsouth.net. We hope to have our biggest turnout yet!!



MS MEDICAID: COORDINATED CARE

By Reed Branson, Capitol Resources, LLC

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid is soliciting bids to transition part of the state's Medicaid program toward a coordinated care plan. The Division has posted notice it intends to solicit proposals from coordinated care providers and could have the program up and running by September, 2009.

The program, which will be statewide, is focusing coordinated care coverage for pregnant women, children under age one, high-cost beneficiaries eligible for social security (excluding persons in institutions, children in foster care, dual eligibles), and other high-cost beneficiaries.

We expect the program to reward companies that take steps to encourage use of preventive and primary care services with the ultimate goal of keeping individuals well. The ultimate goal, according to the division, is to:

- Improve access to needed medical services.
- Improve quality of care.
- Improve efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

For more information on the MS coordinated care, visit: <http://www.medicaid.ms.gov>.

FLOROQUINOLONES AND RISKS OF TENDINOPATHY

Prescribers Letter — August 2008

The risk of tendon injuries will be in a new black box warning for all oral and IV quinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, etc.) Patients taking quinolones have a 3 to 4 times higher risk of tendon rupture. The risk is still small, roughly 1 in 10,000 or less, but it can be debilitating if it occurs. Most cases involve the Achilles tendon, but tendons in shoulders, arms, and hands can be affected. The risk is highest in people over 60 or taking systemic steroids. Injuries can occur within one day of starting the drug or can be several months after stopping therapy. Tell patients it's extremely rare, but explain the signs — swelling, pain, or inability to carry weight on it. Instruct patients to contact you if they suspect a tendon injury. Have them stop the drug and rest the area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Haven't received your license renewal? Have you moved and not notified MSBML or MAPA?

Please remember to notify MAPA, the MSBML and DEA of any change in address, employment, or licensure status.

■ Would you like to be in the headlines?

Write about your own pearls of wisdom, perhaps what resources you found necessary to make a difficult diagnosis, an interesting case study or experience, or any information you think should be shared with the PAs of Mississippi. Please send articles for consideration to Krista Blanchard, newsletter editor, at kristapac@bellsouth.net.

■ Get Involved with MAPA

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants will be making a call for nominations March 15, 2009 for the 2009–2010 leadership year. If you want to make a difference for the PAs in MS and are a member of AAPA and MAPA, you are eligible to run for a position on the board.

You could be part of the MAPA BOD's ongoing efforts of member expansion, solicitation of active involvement, opportunities for professional, social and intellectual growth, and an increased connection with professional matters.

Positions on the board include President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, 3 regional Directors at Large, and Delegates. Each successful candidate will serve a one year term commencing with the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2009). The time commitment of a member of the Board of Directors is one general board meeting per quarter, teleconferences, CME conference participation, and the meetings of those committees on which board members choose to serve. Questions about the appropriateness of a particular nomination or nomination/election processes are welcome and should be directed to missipas@aapa.org.

MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Membership Application

Name.....

Home Address.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

Home Phone..... Cell Phone.....

E-Mail Address.....

Employer.....

Work Address.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

Work Phone..... Ext..... Fax.....

Supervising Physician.....

Specialty.....

PA Program Attended.....

NCCPA Certification No Yes/Certificate #:.....

AAPA Member No Yes/Member #:.....

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Fellow (\$100)** • An individual who is a current member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Fellow members shall have full voting rights and shall be eligible to hold office.
- Associate (\$50)** • Non-PA (e.g. physician, pharmaceutical liaison, etc.) or member of another AAPA constituent chapter.
- Affiliate (\$50)** • An individual who qualifies for fellow membership but elects not to be an AAPA member. These members have privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA Executive Committee or vote on AAPA matters.
- Student (\$50)** • An individual currently enrolled in a Physician Assistant Program. These members have privileges of Fellow members but may not serve on the MAPA Executive Committee or vote on AAPA matters.

Are you interested in volunteering as an officer or committee chair? No Yes/Area(s) of interest:.....

Dues are paid **annually**. The membership year runs from July 1–June 30. **Approximately 100% of your dues are not deductible as an ordinary business expense as a result of lobbying activities which are regulated by lobbying laws. Questions about the valid tax deductibility should be discussed with your tax advisor.**

Make check or money order payable to MAPA and mail with application to:



Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants
950 North Washington Street
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MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

2009 ANNUAL CME CONFERENCE

May 8–10, 2009



For more information, visit us
at aapacoms.org/msapa

Marriott Grand Hotel Resort & Spa
Point Clear, Alabama

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Vacant

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