

8th District Councilors Report
Edward Kelly Bartels, M.D.
September 2015

Consolidation of practices continues in WNY.

1. Great Lakes, a group of independent physician practices which are primarily affiliated with the Kaleida Health System has recently announced the expansion of its OBGYN with an affiliation agreement signed with the %Audubon WomensqHealth Group+. The newly formed %Great Lakes Cardiology+is a group of 10 physicians, who previously were partners in other practices within the 8 counties. Both new entities will have multiple offices which will serve patients throughout the WNY community.
2. Kaleida Health has acquired %Western New York Urology Associates+and %Cancer Care of WNY+, two the regions largest private practice group. The 30 physicians (all county/MSSNY members), and 350 staff will continue to provide care in the 14 sites currently open in WNY.

In compliance with the request made by Doctor Maldonado, an analysis of current group membership has been completed in Erie County. The information is being used by the Executive Board to determine and Implement a marketing strategy to increase membership.

Spearheaded by new member Elisabeth Dexter, M.D., a new collaborative has been established with the Western New York Chapter of the WomensqBar Association of New York. Their first jointly sponsored program will take place on October 6, 2015. Entitled %Medical and Legal Issues Involving the LGBTQ Patient and Perils and Promised of the EMR and Technology in the Medical Setting+it will be moderated by Nancy H. Nielsen, M.D. Panel Participants include Howard Lippes, M.D., Irene Snow, M.D., Thomas Mazur, PsyD, Roberta O'Toole, Esq. and Jennifer Scharf, Esq. Ms. Scharf is current the co-chair of the MSCE Health Law Committee and, President of the WNY Chapter of the WBASNY.

%DOCTHERS+a network of female physicians and scientists has been established by Rose Berkun, M.D. Chair of Erie County's, Legislative Affairs Committee. The goal of the group is to brand and build a network which would empower and educate women to on issues related to work-life-family balance, career development, assuming leadership positions in healthcare; to develop an active mentoring program for students and residents, and to host an annual %National Women in Med/Science Symposium (the first will take place in February 2016). Currently membership includes over 200 physicians/scientists and 4 administrative/CEOs.

Transition to ICD-10 coding compliance continues to meet the deadline of October 1, 2015. Multiple courses have been offered to Erie and Chautauqua members and staff, the last of which will be take place on September 16 and 17, 2015.

Pediatric practices have reported concern regarding the recently enacted legislation which allows students who have diagnosed with respiratory conditions, allergies, and/or diabetes to carry and use medications independently with appropriate documentation. In order to carry and use their inhaled respiratory rescue medications, epinephrine auto-injectors; insulin, glucagon, and related diabetes supplies the student must provide to the schools health office:

1. Written parental consent, and

2. Written provider orders with an attestation confirming the student diagnosis, and that the student has demonstrated they can effectively administer the medication(s).

Although NYS has provided forms which physicians can use to incorporate the attesting language into their own forms, there is concern about liability. A request has been made to the NYS AAP to have their legal counsel to review all forms and to issue an advisory.