8th District Branch, Council Report
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The MSCE continues with outreach to members and non-members. President Elect Timothy F. Gabryel, MD has been asked to address the orthopedic community at the Catholic Health System; Rose Berkun, M.D. hosted a meeting of the local anesthesia society at which Edward Amsler and Michael Schopmann were guest speakers. Of concern to both groups is the threat to personal assets, when an award in a malpractice case surpasses the limits of all policies. Because of the continued concern, a general membership meeting is being planned.

The collaborative relationship with HealthELink continues after the transition to ICD10. All participants have agreed to report to the cooperative and the Medical Society, any problems identified by providers or payors which have resulted in delays or denials for payment based upon ICD10 codes utilized in billing. At time of writing this report, no problems have been reported.

The consolidation of medical practice continues in Erie County. Hospital owned practices are increasing; the UBMD practice has purchased a number of practices; and an independent ophthalmology practice has acquired 2 of other practices. Physicians report that the increased burden of EMR, Meaningful Use, meeting regulatory requirements, increased HR costs, and decreased reimbursement for services and increased patient no-shows and slow-pay are the basis for this consolidation. Because of this consolidation, a program is in development which will assist physicians in understanding how to determine the value of the practice.

The MSCE notes with sadness the recent death of Mark Hoeplinger, MD. Doctor Hoeplinger’s death occurred while on vacation in Greece. An untiring advocate for the medical society, during his work with medical students and residents he continually urged them to become members and be involved; and as the principal in a private practice otolaryngology group he maintained that all physicians be members and participate on an MSCE committee.

Visits continue with all legislators, state and federal. Among the issues discussed are the proposed CME mandate for pain management; the need for some form of effective tort reform; relief from increased audits/reviews by payors and the prevention of untenable expansions of liability. A legislative breakfast is being scheduled by the MSCE’s legislative committee.

The District would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Elman for her dedication to the Medical Society, its members throughout the State and especially for her immediate responsiveness to any emails or phone calls from members and staff. It is the hope of the District that Ms. Elman will enjoy her retirement years and remain in good health throughout.