Vice President's Message

As many of you may already know, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBS of MS) announced last week reimbursement reductions in both the technical and professional components for many of the diagnostic and interventional procedures we provide on a daily basis. While this will affect other specialties that offer in-office imaging, reductions within our specialty will be an average of 25%. This topic was discussed at our recent Mississippi Radiological Society meeting this past Thursday, April 25. Among the many decisions made was to mobilize our national college (ACR) as well as our society members in contacting local members of their legislature as well as members of the BCBS advisory board, including Tom Fenter, MD.

Dr. Thomas C. Fenter

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi

3545 Lakeland Drive

Flowood, MS 39232

TFenter@bcbsms.com

(601) 664-5116

Imaging services utilization outside of self-referral and ED has actually decreased per national references. While reimbursement will be decreased, the time radiologists spend interpreting most studies (MRI/CT/Nuclear Med/US/X-ray) will not decrease.

It is important that you act now and contact Dr. Fenter for any questions you may have regarding these planned cuts to reimbursement.

Bryan Lantrip, MD
Get Involved!

Would you like to become more involved with the College at the national level? Please let us know if you’d like to be recommended for Commission, Committee or Task Force service. Contact Edward Green egreen@umc.edu. Alternatively, if you have any questions regarding the ACR’s commission and committees, please feel free to contact the ACR’s Meghan Deaver mdeaver@acr.org or (800) 227-5463, ext.5785.

Legislative Update

Serve as 2013 State Capitol Doctor of the Day.

Doctors of the Day are granted floor privileges in both chambers of the State Legislature and are introduced in the House and the Senate at the opening of each day’s session. The experience offers physicians a close-up view of legislative action and the opportunity to promote the practice of medicine to our elected officials with a distinctive and personal approach. Click here to access the online sign-up calendar now. Need more information? Contact MSMA Government Liaison Blake Bell at BBell@MSMAonline.com or 601-853-6733, Ext. 310.

Support the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act

We need your help to block CMS from further implementing the 25% multiple procedure payment reduction. Ask your Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 846 today.

Take Action Now!

Support H.R. 991 CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act of 2013

Legislation has been introduced requiring Medicare to cover CTC as a colon cancer screening benefit. Urge your legislator to cosponsor HR 991 today!

Take Action Now!

Mississippi has excellent RADPAC representation in Washington, DC.
Misissippi has 100% RADPAC participation by the councilors, chapter leaders, and residents in 2013!

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**News**

**BCBS Plans 25% Rate Cuts to Radiology**

In an article published in last week's Mississippi State Medical Association's Lifeline, effective May 15, 2013, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBS) will reduce provider payments by up to 25% for certain procedures, specifically radiology and pathology procedures. MSMA requested that State Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney intervene to facilitate a meeting of BCBS and MSMA representatives.

**Radiology Resident Golf Tournament**

The Mississippi Radiology Society is a proud sponsor of the Resident and Fellow Section golf tournament for graduating seniors on Friday, June 14th.
MGCCC graduate receives Mississippi Radiological Society scholarship

Caitlin Rodriguez, a 2013 graduate of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College’s Radiological Technology program at the Jackson County Campus, was chosen Outstanding Student of the Year in the program and will receive a Mississippi Radiological Society scholarship to continue her education.

For the scholarship, the society chooses students who exemplify academic excellence, financial need and sound moral character. Rodriguez plans to continue her education at The University of South Alabama and earn her bachelor’s degree in radiologic sciences.

“I’m not ready to stop my education at this point,” she said. “I want to go on for a bachelor’s degree and maybe even specialize. This scholarship, which I was totally surprised by and flattered to receive, will help me a great deal. College is expensive, and times are hard, so this scholarship makes a big difference for me.”

2013 AMCLC Presidential Address

Dr. John A. Patti focuses on the what, how, and why the radiologist is successful and the challenges ahead of us for the future of radiology. Listen to his entire AMCLC presentation:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bhR1RLfAag8

ACR Imaging 3.0 Initiative “Beyond Imaging Interpretation”

Imaging 3.0 was unveiled at the 2013 AMCLC. It is a change initiative led by the ACR for the profession of radiology. It recognizes the changes facing all of radiology and understands what radiologists need to know to manage their practices, patient care and their own future. It is a multi-phase, multi-year initiative that requires grassroots input and involvement.

http://www.acr.org/~media/ACR/Documents/PDF/Economics/Imaging%203/IMAGING3_HANDOUT.pdf
Meetings

UMMC Radiology Grand Rounds and Research Day

The Department of Radiology is having a 3rd Annual UMMC Radiology Research Day on Thursday, June 13, 2013 in CW 308, Classroom Wing, from noon to 4:30 pm. The Radiology Grand Rounds will be presented at noon with lunch provided for the first 80 attendees. Dr. Desiree Morgan MD, Professor of Radiology and Vice Chair for Clinical Research, will present on “Dual Energy CT of the Abdomen”. After a short break, the oral presentation sessions will begin at 1:30 pm.

MACM CME Meeting returns to New Orleans

Mark your calendars now for September 13-14, 2013 when the MACM CME Meeting returns to New Orleans! The featured speaker is Dr. Daniel O’Connell who has worked the last 30 years as an educator, consultant, clinician, department chair, and executive director in medical, behavioral health and educational settings.

Another speaker that we have already booked is Mary Angela Meyer, JD. Ms Meyer is a well-respected and “in the know” attorney regarding healthcare reform, regulations, and Medicare (among a lot more subjects). Ms. Meyer plans to talk about several issues, including the latest on the Accountable Care Act.

Book your reservation at the New Orleans Sheraton on Canal Street – just steps away from the excitement of the French Quarter. A block of rooms has been set aside for our meeting. Please call 1.888.627.7033 and let the hotel know that you are with Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi. Our room rate is $159 per night and includes Thursday night, September 12; Friday night, September 13; AND Saturday night, September 14.

North Carolina Radiological Society CME Meetings

The NCRS is offering weekend CME courses located in beautiful Charlotte, NC. These courses are designed to satisfy CME requirements (15 hours CME credit every 3 years) in specific areas that are
necessary for facility accreditation. Charlotte is readily accessible by nonstop flights from Jackson via US Air (American Airlines).

The course dates are:

**Breast Imaging**  January 10-12, 2021

**Ultrasound Imaging (emphasis on vascular)**  February 7-9, 2014

**Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging**  March 7-9, 2014

The North Carolina Radiological Society is offering a $100 discount off of the registration as a special offer for MRS members. For more information contact Dr. Dale Shaw: dalershaw@gmail.com

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**Contribute to RADPAC**

RADPAC provides direct campaign contributions, to imaging policy discussions at fund raisers, to hands-on education directly to those who create the legislation and policies affecting our specialty and delivery of excellent patient care. If you want your radiology practice to have a successful future in this competitive market with a strong voice at the national level; it is imperative to contribute to RADPAC.

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**Contact the Mississippi Radiological Society**

The MRS Update is an exclusive benefit for members of the Mississippi Radiological Society delivering chapter news, legislative updates, and event announcements. Please do no reply to this email, rather contact our newsletter editor: update@mississippiradiological.com