

MAFP E-BULLETIN, JANUARY, 2008, VOL.2 NO.1

In this issue:

- MAFP'S NEW PARTNERSHIP HELPS MEMBERS PURCHASE VACCINES
- MARYLAND HAS 16% FEWER PRACTICING PHYSICIANS THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE - MAFP RESPONDS
- NEW MARYLAND UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM
- ALA RELEASES STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL REPORT
- VOTE TO BE RETAKEN ON MAFP CME POLICY
- MAFP CME IN FEBRUARY - COLLEGE PARK

MAFP'S NEW PARTNERSHIP HELPS MEMBERS PURCHASE VACCINES

The Maryland Academy of Family Physicians is pleased to announce a partnership with Atlantic Health Partners, a leading physician vaccine purchasing program. With the increased burden physicians face providing a growing number of vaccines to your patients in a fiscally responsible manner, Atlantic is able to help lower costs and improve purchasing terms.

Advantages of Atlantic's program include:

- Favorable pricing for vaccines from leading manufacturers
- Improved purchasing terms as you do not need to make large, multi-product orders
- No fee and enrollment is voluntary
- On-line or phone orders placed directly with vaccine manufacturers
- Full spectrum of pediatric, adolescent, adult and travel vaccines
- Reimbursement support provided by Atlantic
- Sponsorship for MAFP programs and activities as we aspire to our mission Able, Responsive Family Physicians Serving Their Communities

Interested physicians are encouraged you to contact Jeff Winokur at Atlantic Health Partners at 1-800-741-2044 or jwinokur@atlantichelpthpartners.com for more information and to determine how Atlantic can benefit your practice. Certainly, contact MAFP, as well at 410-747-1980 or office@mdafp.org

MARYLAND HAS 16% FEWER PRACTICING PHYSICIANS THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE - MAFP RESPONDS

Posted on AAFP's State Watch [Jan 09, 2008]: Maryland has 16% fewer physicians in clinical practice than the national per capita average, a shortage that could become severe by 2015, according to a report released on Monday by [MedChi](#), the state's medical society, and the Maryland Hospital Society, the [Washington Post](#) reports. For the report, presented last month to the [Governor's Task Force on Health Care Access and Reimbursement](#) (<http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/hcar/index.html>), analysts interviewed

administrators at 52 hospitals in the state and several medical residency program directors. Analysts also surveyed primary and specialty care physicians (Levine, *Washington Post*, 1/8).

According to the report, the state has 179 physicians delivering care for every 100,000 residents, below the national average of 212. In total, the state has about 25,000 licensed physicians, making it the second-highest rate per capita of any state, but nearly 40% are nonpracticing and engage in teaching, research and administrative duties, according to the study. Many of the nonpracticing physicians work at the state's two large medical schools or for the federal government. Areas in which the state lacks the most physicians include: primary care, emergency medicine, anesthesiology, hematology, oncology, thoracic and vascular surgery, psychiatry and dermatology.

The study estimates that the physician shortage will become worse by 2015 as the state's population ages and physicians retire (Salganik, [Baltimore Sun](#), 1/8). Southern Maryland, followed by western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, are expected to be hit hardest (*Washington Post*, 1/8).

The report recommended that Maryland do more to attract and retain physicians, mostly by increasing the rates that insurers pay doctors. The report also proposed lowering the cap on malpractice premiums to reduce liability premiums and expanding loan-forgiveness programs to encourage physicians to practice in the state ([Baltimore Sun](#), 1/8). The report does not include a cost estimate for the recommendations. According to the report, "Unless medical and political leaders find ways to reduce physician shortages, patient care will suffer" (*Washington Post*, 1/8).

MAFP's and the Maryland Primary Care Coalition's responses to the report have been published:

1. Letter to the editor, "Shortage of doctors already a dilemma," [The Baltimore Sun](#), www.baltimoresun.com/opinion (1/14/08),
2. Op Ed piece, "Why the doctor can't see you now," [The Baltimore Examiner](#), www.examiner.com/baltimore-opinion.html (1/15/08)

NEW MARYLAND UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM

From MedChi News (1/14/08): Effective January 1, 2008 the Maryland Uniform Credentialing Form has been updated. The new form immediately replaces the old 1999 form. All physicians who are credentialing with an insurance carrier or re-credentialing with a carrier are required to use the new form. The new form may be submitted as a paper form, faxed or filed electronically in any format that contains all of the data required by the new version. Additionally, a carrier may not require a physician to submit a form electronically. The electronic format used by the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) is virtually identical to the new credentialing form and therefore may be used to credential in a web-based format.

Physicians may obtain a copy of the new form and additional information at the Maryland Insurance Administration website at www.mdinsurance.state.md.us.

ALA RELEASES STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL REPORT

The American Lung Association has just released the 2007 State of Tobacco Control Report, which tracks progress on key tobacco control policies at the state and federal level and assigns grades to tobacco control laws and regulations. The report and actions can be found at: <http://www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org>

No states get straight A's on this year's American Lung Association Tobacco Report Card, but one state got straight F's (not MD; we got 2-Bs; smoke free air and cigarette tax). We also got a D (prevention) and an F (youth access). Prevention is exactly what MAFP's Tar Wars program seeks to address. The more kids we can reach, the better our state's grade will become. To learn more about Tar Wars, visit www.tarwars.org and call the MAFP office to either contribute to or participate in the program.

VOTE TO BE RETAKEN ON MAFP CME POLICY

This will serve as the first of a sequence of notifications leading up to the 2008 MAFP Annual Business Meeting that, due to the lack of a quorum (by one member), the vote on the current MAFP CME policy will be retaken. The 2007 draft bylaws amendment (signed by 5 MAFP members in good standing in accordance with the bylaws) would rescind the policy.

The 2008 Annual Business Meeting will take place on Friday, June 27 during the 2008 CME Assembly at the Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort (see www.mdafp.org and www.rockygapresort.com). The meeting will begin at 7:30am.

Active and Supporting members are urged to review the MAFP CME policy (requiring 6 AAFP-prescribed credits, every 3-years, from MAFP-sponsored programs) appearing in the MAFP bylaws document and in each edition of The Maryland Family Doctor publication (see both at www.mdafp.org). Members are also welcome to contact the MAFP office if they wish discussion and/or clarification.

MAFP CME IN FEBRUARY - COLLEGE PARK

If you haven't already registered, please consider attending MAFP's 2008 Mid-Winter CME Conference: Selected Topics in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at the University of Maryland Conference Center in College Park. The conference will provide a great CME program (with credits applicable to AAFP/MAFP educational requirements for members), an easily accessible, beautiful location with free parking, wonderful

networking opportunities.... and more. Complete program (topics/faculty) and registration materials are posted, along with online registration (thru 2/14/08) at www.mdafp.org or contact the MAFP office.