



April 15, 2009

Society Partners with EMR Vendor eClinicalWorks; Offers Member Discount

The Endocrine Society is pleased to announce an agreement with eClinicalWorks to offer a new benefit to Society members, helping physicians implement electronic medical records in their practices.

Through this special arrangement, members of The Endocrine Society are eligible to receive a discount of 10% on the license fee for eClinicalWorks Electronic Medical Records and Practice Management (EMR&PM) Unified Upfront Solution.

The decision to partner with eClinicalWorks was reached after a two-year process of research and evaluation of multiple electronic medical record systems by the Society's Practice Management Task Force of the Clinical Affairs Core Committee. eClinicalWorks' EMR product provides the ability to manage patient flow, access patient records in-house or remotely, communicate electronically with referring physicians, and send secure consult notes and clinical data. Users can access and review complete patient histories, including past visits, current medications, allergies, labs and charts. The system will also help with reporting and clinical guidelines, and provide patient information, including problem lists, allergies, medication history and lab results. Unified with the EMR is eClinicalWorks Practice Management system, designed to streamline the medical billing process.

Information on eClinicalWorks and its discount for Society members can be found at www.eclinicalworks.com or by calling 508-836-2700.

Additional questions can be directed to Holly Whelan, Associate Director of Health Policy at hwhelan@endo-society.org.

Society Issues Statement on Use of PTU in Children

In response to the April 9, 2009 Letter to the Editor in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Scott A. Rivkees, M.D. of Yale University School of Medicine and Donald R. Mattison, M.D. of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, The Endocrine Society issued a statement supporting the recommendation that propylthiouracil (PTU) no longer be used as first-line treatment for Graves' disease in the pediatric population.

This recommendation comes in response to concerns about potential severe liver disease in children from the commonly used antithyroid drug, PTU, an adverse effect not seen with the other thionamide derivative, methimazole. On the basis of several lines of evidence and frequency estimates, some of which were presented at the National Institute of Child Health and

Human Development (NICHD) workshop “Hepatic Toxicity Following Treatment for Pediatric Graves’ Disease” on October 28, 2008, Rivkees and Mattison suggest that PTU no longer be used as first-line treatment for Graves’ disease in the pediatric age range.

The full statement may be found [here](#). Please contact Stephanie Kutler, Director of Government Affairs, at skutler@endo-society.org with any questions.

Society Invites Members to Advocate for Endocrinology on Capitol Hill during ENDO 09

ENDO 09 will be held in Washington, DC, and the location provides a unique opportunity for The Endocrine Society to engage the membership in advocacy efforts. When deciding whether to support a specific bill, members of Congress place the most emphasis on the views of their constituents. By taking advantage of the opportunity to visit their members of Congress while in Washington, DC, Society members will help to raise the visibility of issues that are important to endocrinologists. Congressional members are more likely to remember the Society’s positions when faced with a vote on legislation that impacts endocrinologists if they have been briefed by someone in the field.

The Endocrine Society will provide any interested Society members with information about setting up a visit with their member of Congress, talking points for issues of importance to endocrinologists, and “leave-behind” materials to support the Society’s positions. Society members are encouraged to contact their member of Congress in early May to schedule an appointment. Contact information for members of Congress can be found by visiting the [House](#) and [Senate](#) websites and entering a zip code or choosing a state. Additional information on scheduling a visit can be found [here](#).

Provider Conference Call to Discuss Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting a conference call for providers on Wednesday, April 22nd from 2:30 to 4:30 pm EDT. The purpose of the call is to discuss tips for successfully participating in the physician quality reporting initiative (PQRI), planning for 2010 PQRI reporting, and to discuss specific PQRI measures. There will be an open discussion period at the end of the call to ask questions of CMS PQRI subject matter experts.

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), which was enacted in 2008, established the PQRI as a permanent program. However, bonus payments to physicians and other providers who participate in the program are only authorized through 2010. This year, the bonus payment to participating providers will be 2 percent of total allowed charges for Physician Fee Schedule covered services. The PQRI consists of 153 reportable measures, and includes various measures related to diabetes and osteoporosis.

In order to participate on the April 22nd conference call and receive appropriate call-in information, providers need to register for the event online by going to the following link: <http://www2.eventsvc.com/palmettogba/042209>.

For additional information on the PQRI program, CMS has posted resources to provide guidance and assistance to physicians and other medical professionals. A manual on measure specifications and a PQRI implementation guide are available [here](#).

For questions regarding articles listed in *Endocrine Insider* or information on advocacy and policy activities within The Endocrine Society, contact the Government & Public Affairs department:

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