

# Council on Public Affairs Update

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July 30, 2011

# Congressional Appropriations and Residency Funding

- Congressional appropriations are on hold until the debt ceiling is resolved
- Outlook for NIOSH ERC funding is not positive
- Administration continues to view ERC's as a low priority
- Outlook for preventive medicine residency funding is also unclear
- ERCs and PM programs are part of the FY 2012 Labor HHS Appropriations bill – final action late this year or early next

# Prescription Drug Abuse

- White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
  - *EPIDEMIC: RESPONDING TO AMERICA'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE CRISIS*
- CDC – division of unintentional injury prevention
  - ACOEM working with CDC on strategies for compensating physicians for cognitive services
  - CDC providing support on CPT code set
  - CDC will coordinate with ACOEM on messaging
- *S. 507, Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2011*
  - ACOEM working with Senator Rockefeller
    - Include occupational injuries in scope of legislation
    - Consider treatment guidelines
    - Include ACOEM as a specified provider of pain management CME
    - Compensate physicians for cognitive services

# Prescription Drug Abuse

- Ohio statute and regulation
  - Defines and regulates pain management centers
    - A pain center is defined as a clinic where a majority of patients are provided treatment for pain or chronic pain (component estimates 20% of members practice in a defined pain clinic)
  - Sets standards for when prescribers must review the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) database prior to prescribing controlled substances
- ACOEM and Tri-State Occupational Medical Association worked successfully with state medical association on regulations

# Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

- Focus of ACOEM's Efforts
  - Incentives for worksite wellness programs
  - Role of OEM in accountable care organizations /patient-centered medical home (ACO/PCMH) models
  - Include the workplace in the National Prevention Strategy

# Letters and Comments Filed

- 4/13/2011 – Letter to EEOC: the electronic medical record (EMR) and the confidentiality of individual health information under ADA and GINA. (EEOC response 5/31/2011)
- 4/18/2011 – Comments to NIOSH re Nanotechnology Strategic Plan
- 4/20/2011 – Joint letter with ACPM to Senate Appropriations Committee: support for HRSA preventive residency training funds
- 5/25/2011 – Letter to House committees: funding for OEM residency programs
- 6/7/2011 – Letter to NIOSH: safe handling programs for hazardous agents, including antineoplastic drugs, by health care workers. (NIOSH response 7/7/2011)

# Letters and Comments Filed

- 6/16/2011 – Comments to FMCSA: core curriculum for training providers in implementing the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners
- 7/7/2011– Letter to DOL, EEOC and Treasury: employer provided wellness incentives ( response from EEOC, 7/19/2011)
- 7/18/2011 – Letter to Sen. Rockefeller: Senate of S. 507, the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2011.
- 7/25/2011 – Comments to HHS/CMS; proposed revisions to work relative value units (RVUs)
- 7/29/2011 – MCOH participated in OSHA stakeholder meeting on infectious disease in occupational health settings.