

CONNECTICUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN

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FRAUD ALERT

CT, 18 Other States Report Possible Compromise of Physician SSNs, Fraudulent Tax Filings

CAFP has been made aware the Social Security numbers of many Connecticut physicians may have been compromised, resulting in fraudulent tax returns being filed with the IRS. Affected physicians and their spouses are becoming aware

only after attempting to file their 2013 income tax returns with the IRS. Based on communications with the U.S. Secret Service, similar problems have occurred in approximately 18 other states.

In addition to cooperating with the ongoing Secret Service investigation, CAFPP has also been in contact with Attorney General George Jepsen’s office, the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Connecticut State Dental Association, and specific hospitals and providers.

Czarsty Resigns; New Delegate and Alternate Delegate Named

Dr. Craig Czarsty resigned as Delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians after 16 years of dedicated service. Dr. Czarsty founded Health Horizons International in 2009. He currently serves as its Board Chair and feels the need to spend more time with HHI. Resigning from his post as Delegate will allow him to participate in additional medical missions to the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Domenic Casablanca has been named by the CAFPP Board as his replacement and has moved into the Delegate spot. Dr. Casablanca is a past President of the CAFPP and has served as an Alternate Delegate since 2011. He also serves on the Commission on Continuing Professional Development and will be the Chair of the AAFP Scien-

tific Assembly in Denver in 2015. Dr. Casablanca is also Chair of the 2014 Working Group on Rural Health.

Dr. Robert Carr was elected by the CAFPP Board to fill the vacant Alternate Delegate position. Dr. Carr is also a past President of the Academy and current Treasurer of the Core Content Review of Family Medicine. Dr. Carr is a previous member of the DC Chapter where he served as an Alternate Delegate and Delegate to the AAFP. He was the Chair of the Commission on Practice Enhancement and served on the Commission on Health Care Services. He also currently serves as the AAFP CPT Advisor.

Dr. Czarsty said, “I will always

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In addition, CSMS is communicating with the American Medical Association and other state medical societies. All parties are very interested in helping affected providers and determining the cause and perpetrators of these alleged acts.

If you are affected by this issue, you will need to contact the IRS directly in order to verify your identity and avoid penalties for the fraudulent filing.

Call the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. You will need to file a paper copy of your tax return, along with a completed IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, which should be faxed to the IRS at 1-855-807-5720. Ask your accountant if you need an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (“IP PIN”) for the paper return.

AAFP Alert: Documentation Needed for Diabetic Patients

“AAFP states that it remains our opinion that simply writing “for diabetes” on the prescription is sufficient documentation.”

The AAFP has been made aware that many retail pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers are asking physicians to provide extensive documentation on their patients with diabetes as a condition of providing diabetic supplies. We remain unclear as to why this has become an issue at this time, but we are actively looking into why these requests are being sent to physicians and how we can best address this with our members, CMS, and the retail pharmacies.

In July of 2013, CMS began a national mail-order program for diabetic testing supplies. CMS believed that such a program is cheaper and more coordinated for beneficiaries. However, patients can still get supplies from retail pharmacies, but these pharmacies must comply with stricter standards to ensure the patient needs the supplies. We believe this is the genesis of recent activities, but we are not certain. AAFP states that it remains our opinion that simply writing “for diabetes” on the prescription is sufficient documentation.

AAFP is not aware of any law that requires physicians to maintain copies of a patient’s glucose testing logs. MLN Matters SE1008 (a CMS publication) does say that beneficiary maintained logs may be used to support the medical necessity of diabetic testing supplies that exceed Medicare’s usual coverage limits, but it does not require physicians to maintain a

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Mary Yokose Named Deputy Executive Vice President



The Board of Directors of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians

has announced the promotion of Mary Yokose as the new Deputy EVP of the Academy. Affiliated with the Academy’s management company – S&S Management Services – Mrs. Yokose is an experienced Association Executive, who also works closely with the Academy’s Core Content Review of Family Medicine. She has served as the As-

sociate EVP for the last three years.

Prior to joining S&S Management Services, Mrs. Yokose worked for 10 years as the Executive Vice President of Port-One Internet, Inc., an Internet solutions provider specializing in custom web-based software.

According to Mark Schuman, CAFP EVP, Mrs. Yokose’s special talents will provide depth and continuity to the Academy staff as it meets its continuing challenges.

She lives with her husband Mike and son Zachary in Toland, CT.

Letters to the Editor

I am looking for a used ECH machine that can be sent to a medical clinic in Haiti. Just thought I would ask if you folks can help me with this. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Manton

University of Connecticut Health Services
Storrs, CT 06269-4011

Note: If you are interested in donating a machine, please contact the CAFP Executive Office at mschuman@ssmgt.com or 1-800-600-CAFP.

I finally got around to taking the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Exam Saturday. Thank you to the Academy for the training course offered, which served as an excellent preparatory vehicle for taking the exam.

Craig Czarsty, M.D.

New CAFP Members

Welcome:

Kashirf Ramzan, M.D.
Stamford, CT

Jibin James, M.D.
Bridgeport, CT

CAFP Delegation Attends AAFP Congressional Conference



CAFP Delegation: Drs. Andrew Selinger, Stacy Taylor, and Ed Kim, CAFP President, with Dr. Sarah Sams, current Chair of the Core Content Review and past president of Ohio AFP. The CAFP Members met with Connecticut's U.S. Representatives to discuss issues of importance to family medicine.

Drs. Kim, Taylor, and Selinger meet with U.S. Representative John Larsen during the Family Medicine Congressional Conference. Note the UConn hat celebrating the basketball championships. The Conference focused on health care legislative issues.

Of Note...

- **Dr. Andrea Needleman** has been appointed by the Department of Public Health to the Childhood Vaccine Advisory Council.
- CAFP contributed \$500 to support the annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the Family Medicine Education Consortium.
- **Dr. Craig Czarsty** was elected Vice Chair of the AAFP Foundation.
- The CAFP won the 2013 Chairman's Award from the Family Medicine Political Action Committee – FAMPAC – for having the highest percentage of contributing members.
- **Dr. Stephanie Fowler** has been named to the AAFP Tar Wars Program Advisors. For several years, Dr. Fowler has successfully headed Connecticut's Tar Wars educational program, which teaches 5th grade students about the dangers of smoking.

Another Successful Medical Service Trip with HHI

By Anne Brewer, M.D.

This was my fourth trip to the Dominican Republic with Health Horizons International, and I'm delighted to see the evolution and growth of the program. We do so much with modest resources, and it's gratifying to see how well our patients are doing with control of their chronic illnesses. In fact, I think that as a whole, the HHI Chronic Care patients are under better control than most of the patients we see in our Family Medicine Center in Stamford, where many of our patients also contend with issues of poverty.

I suspect that the Cooperadores (HHI's Community Health Workers) are the key—when you know that your Cooperador/a will be checking your blood pressure or sugar and hounding you if you don't take your meds, you're more likely to take them regularly. To have continuity of care and see patients for return visits and celebrate their achievements is a different experience from the

medical “hit-and-run” of most international service trips. Despite the challenges of our mobile clinics, it's a joy to practice medicine in its purest form—just us and the patients, with minimal technology intruding.

The Cooperadores are emerging as leaders in their communities and are more and more confident in their care of their patients. They can have a major impact on the health of their communities.

I have so much respect for the people in the communities that we serve. They are resourceful and cope with challenges that would undo many of us “first-worlders.” Their generosity and support for each other are inspiring.

What makes the trip the most fun is the team that develops over the course of the week. The physicians and students all pitch in to care for our patients, and we develop a quick camaraderie that gets us through the

challenges.

Editor's Note: Academy Members interested in participating in a future medical service trip should contact Craig Czarsty, M.D., Board Chair of Health Horizons International, or CAFP EVP Mark Schuman at the Academy Executive Office: 1-800-600-CAFP.

Czarsty Resigns (continued from page 1)

cherish the time I spent as a Delegate in the seat my father once occupied and the lifelong friends I have made. I hope I have been able to give back as much to the Academy as it has given to me.

“As I give more time to HHI, I want to reassure the Academy that I am not ready to fade off into the sunset. I remain committed to the CAFP and will be happy to serve in any way I may be useful.”

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APRNs Win Independence

Senate Bill 36 which grants Advance Practice Registered Nurses complete independent practice was approved by the General Assembly on April 28 by an overwhelming vote of 110 to 35. The bill had the strong support of Governor Malloy.

The Academy along with other specialty societies and the Connecticut State Medical Society

opposed the bill and offered several amendments to ensure that APRNs had sufficient training to manage independent practice. All of the amendments were defeated.

With this legislative action APRNs may now offer all primary care services independent of a collaboration with a physician.

AAFP Alert

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copy of those logs.

Again, AAFP is in direct contact with CMS, national retail pharmacies, and other physician organizations. We will provide periodic updates as we gain information.

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