




Newsletter


January 28, 2015

www.ncderm.org


The New BCBSNC “Estimate Health Care Costs” Website Provides Cost Estimates for Various Procedures. But How Accurate is the Data?

Please take a few minutes to browse [this new website](#) and let us know about any inaccuracies or discrepancies. In an effort to improve health care costs transparency, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) recently launched a new online costs estimator. Health care consumers can use the site to compare the cost of various procedures within a geographic range simply by entering the type of treatment, their location and the search range in miles. We are looking into this issue at the request of physicians who have expressed their concern with the accuracy of the data presented. Please email your feedback to NCDA at ncderm@ncmedsoc.org, or contact us at 919-833-3836.


Events 



**AAD 2015
Annual Meeting**
March 20 – 24
San Francisco, Calif.



**NCDA 2015
Summer Meeting**
July 10 – 12
Omni Grove Park Inn
Asheville, N.C.





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Girish (Gilly) Munavalli, MD, MHS, FACMS will serve a second three-year appointment on the N.C. Board of Electrolysis Examiners, the agency responsible for the oversight and licensing of electrologists in the state. He is vice chairman of the Board of Electrolysis Examiners. Dr. Munavalli specializes in dermatologic surgery. He is medical director and founder of Dermatology Laser and Vein Specialists of the Carolinas in Charlotte.

New Officers Elected at NCDA Annual Meeting in Greensboro

More than 150 Dermatologists and physician extenders from across the state gathered this past weekend, Jan. 23-25, in Greensboro for education, networking and collegiality at the 2015 NCDA Annual Meeting. Participants enjoyed 11 hours of educational content from recognized experts in the field of dermatology, including **Dr. Elise Olsen** and **Dr. Brad Merritt**, as well as the latest research from dermatology residents. Congratulations to **Dr. Reed Garza**, a resident at the Duke University School of Medicine, on winning the resident paper contest with his presentation, "*Refractory Pyoderma Gangrenosum as Initial Presentation of Occult Myelodysplastic Syndrome.*" NCDA members also gathered for the NCDA Annual Business Meeting, held in conjunction with the conference, and elected new officers for the 2015-2016 term. Please join us in welcoming your new NCDA Executive Committee.

President

Russell J. Kilpatrick, MD (Greenville)

President-Elect

Pamela J. Guest, MD (Pinehurst)

Secretary-Treasurer

Kevin R. Stein, MD (Winston-Salem)

Past President

Christopher Brent Mizelle, MD (New Bern)

Save the Date!

The **NCDA 2015 Summer Meeting** will be held **July 10-12, 2015**, at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C. Please watch for program and registration information to be announced in the coming months.

For more information, contact Nancy Lowe, nclowe@ncmedsoc.org, Tel: 919-833-3836.

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NCDA 4th Annual Skin Cancer Screening at the Legislature, March 11 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please help ensure a successful screening event by volunteering for this unique public service/advocacy project sponsored by the N.C. Dermatology Association. On Wednesday, March 11, we will be holding our 4th Annual Skin Cancer Screening at the Legislature for legislators, their staff members and others visiting the Legislative Building that day. Volunteers can sign up for one or more of three two-hour screening sessions. We will begin at 9:00 am and will finish by 3:00 pm. Please fill out [the response form](#) (PDF) and return it to Marissa Gallo by email (mgallo@ncmedsoc.org), fax (919-833-2023) or mail (PO Box 27167, Raleigh, NC 27611).

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ICD-10 Resources & Requests

As the October 1, 2015, implementation date nears, providers continue to be at various stages of preparedness. Are you ready for ICD-10? A new white paper titled "[Avoiding the Top 5 Risks of the ICD-10 Conversion](#)" (from EHRIntelligence.com) aims to ease your transition to ICD-10 by alerting providers to the 5 major risks that you may encounter. Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to hear about your preparedness efforts and any success stories that you can share with the health care community. [Share your success story with CMS.](#)

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Free Webinar to Explain Comparative Billing Report on Modifier 59: Dermatology

CMS will host a **FREE webinar on Feb. 4 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm** to explain the recently-released Modifier 59 comparative billing reports for dermatology. The presentation will be provided by CMS contractor eGlobalTech and its partner, Palmetto GBA. This informative webinar is designed to assist physicians specializing in dermatology who submitted claims for lesion biopsy and destruction services appended with Modifier 59, a distinct procedural service. Register online at <http://www.cbrinfo.net/cbr201501-webinar.html>. A recording of the webinar will be available five days following the event.

Comparative Billing Reports (CBR) are made available on occasion to certain providers in addition to the Quality and Resource Use Reports (QRUR). They provide comparative information on specific services billed to Medicare, and in this case, use of the Modifier 59 for Dermatologists. CBRs are typically selected when the services are considered to be prone to improper payments. The report will show comparative information for the state, and the nation.

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For Your Love of Sophisticated Style and Unmatched Quality

Two exciting tech prizes are being offered as part of our new Renew to Win campaign. Every renewing and new NCDA member enrolled by February 28, 2015, will be automatically entered in the random drawing. Up for grabs are a **Harmon Kardon Esquire Mini** Ultra Thin Portable Bluetooth Speaker and a pair of **Bose SoundTrue** In-Ear Headphones. For complete details about these sweet prizes, [click here](#). Renew your NCDA membership, or join NCDA, online at www.ncderm.org.



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Advocacy Update



Continued progress on the NCDA-backed "Ban the Tan" legislation in the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session is critical to our success on this issue and the health of North Carolinians of all ages. The NCDA faces several significant, though not insurmountable, hurdles this year. However, warns NCDA lobbyist Rob Lamme, failure to hit the benchmarks of the last legislative session would represent a step backward. "We need to come back in 2015 with as much fervor as ever, and we need the participation of every dermatologist to help get this legislation over the finish line. Every call, email, letter and meeting with legislators is helpful." Please contact the NCDA at ncderm@ncmedsoc.org for more information about how you can support this patient safety initiative.

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DermPAC Gearing Up for Critical Primary Elections

Like Christmas, election season seems to start earlier and earlier with each passing year. The next primary election contests for the North Carolina General Assembly will take place on Feb. 16, 2016. As a result, those legislative races will heat up this year. Many contests are won and lost in the primaries here in North Carolina, and that's why we are working so hard now to ensure a strong DermPAC as the races begin to take shape. DermPAC is your partner in advocacy, supporting legislators and candidates who are open to the NCDA position on issues of importance to dermatologists and our patients. Give online at www.ncderm.org. Many thanks to all who have already given to DermPAC this year.

2015 DermPAC Heroes

Robert E. Clark, MD, PhD
Timothy C. Flynn, MD
Russell J. Kilpatrick, MD
Rob Lamme

2015 DermPAC Champions

Patrick McElgunn, MD
Kevin Stein, MD
Renee Glover, MD
Ned Gross, MD
Michael G. Hitchcock, MD
Frederick Lupton, III, MD
Susan Sanders, MD
Ron Yaar, MD, PhD

2015 DermPAC Friends

Alexander Chiaramonti, MD
Pamela Guest, MD
Dori Hunt, MD
John L. Jennings, Jr., MD
Kenneth R. Kulp, MD
James Polo, MD
Naomi Simon, MD
Phillip Williford, MD

2015 DermPAC Donors

M. Elvira Chiriturescu, MD
David E. Tart, MD
John C. Murray, MD
Lisa Abernethy Christman, MD
Hope Gruber, MD
Denna Suko, MA

DermPAC Donor Recognition Levels

DermPAC Hero
\$1,000+

DermPAC Champion
\$500+

DermPAC Friend
\$365+

DermPAC Donor
\$1+

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Dr. Kelly Pearson, a second year dermatology resident at the UNC School of Medicine, has been selected for participation in the N.C. Medical Society's [Leadership College](#). Dr. Pearson joins the 2015 class. The year-long Leadership College program prepares physicians for leadership in the rapidly changing healthcare environment.

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Share Your News With NCDA!

Do you have personal or professional achievements, awards, appointments or promotions that you would like to share with your dermatology colleagues? Are big changes taking place at your practice? Email your news to Denna Suko at dsuko@ncmedsoc.org.

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Rep. Ellmers Reintroduces the Flex-IT Act

U.S. Representative Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.) introduced The Flexibility in Health IT Reporting (Flex-IT) Act of 2015 ([H.R.270](#)) on January 26, 2015. Originally introduced in the 113th Congress, this legislation gives providers the flexibility they need to successfully comply with Meaningful Use requirements. The bipartisan bill was introduced with two Republicans and two Democrats leading as original co-sponsors, including Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-Penn.), Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) and Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.).

The Flex-IT Act allows providers the option to choose any three-month quarter for an EHR reporting period to qualify for the Meaningful Use Program in 2015, as opposed to a full year. This shortened reporting period would be an important step in addressing the challenges faced by doctors, hospitals and other medical providers while avoiding threats to patient safety due to the rigid reporting period currently in place. This legislation will ensure continued momentum towards the goals of the Meaningful Use Program, including improved care coordination and interoperability.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a final rule, which included a provision that requires providers to perform a full-year EHR reporting period in 2015.

The full-year reporting rule has sparked much outrage in the health care industry, as evidenced in the low attestation numbers reported last year. [CMS reports released in December](#) (PDF) confirmed that only 4 percent of physicians and less than 35 percent of hospitals achieved Stage 2 Meaningful Use requirements.

[Click here](#) to view H.R. 270 - The Flexibility in Health IT Reporting (Flex-IT) Act of 2015.

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