When you hear hoof beats, 
it could be zebras.

Be prepared for the unexpected.
We can provide a comprehensive plan customized for your professional and personal insurance needs. Working with multiple insurers allows us to offer you choice, competitive rates, and the benefit of one-stop shopping. Call us.

401-272-1050
Are you e-reading

RIMS NOTES: News You Can Use

The biweekly e-newsletter exclusively for RIMS members.

Clear.

Concise.

Informative.

Respectful of your time.

Welcome to the current issue of RIMS Notes, your concise, bi-weekly bulletin to keep RIMS members up-to-date on RIMS, the legislature, and highlights of our advocacy efforts.

Volume 1 – Number 21

What’s New

On October 14 CMS published its Final Rule for implementing MACRA. All physicians must take careful note of the momentous changes in how Medicare will pay starting in little more than 2 months. On October 20, AMA released the new documents to help physicians understand the Final Rule and what it means for their practices. AMA’s new summary document provides an outline, while AMA’s new summary document provides detail. The Final Rule incorporates a number of improvements that AMA fought for to ease the transition for doctors.

Membership Activities

The Medical Society’s new website debuted September 22, 2016. The URL is unchanged, www.rims.org, but everything else has been rebuilt from the ground up in fulfillment of strategic planning and something done last winter. You will like what you see.

December 1: Book by popular demand! Paint and Wine at the Mars Point Bar, 117 North Main Street, Providence. Register through the Member Home on RIMS website. Unlock your inner artist.

Keeping You Posted: Opioids

New Prescription Limits are in Effect! By state law effective June 28, 2016, initial opioid prescriptions for equivalent adults shall entail no more than 30 morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) or 20 total dosages. Review the impact of these important new laws here.

Co-prescribing: FDA now requires strong warnings for combined use of opioid analogues, prescription opioid cough products, and benzodiazepines. The action is part of a national effort led by Rhode Island’s Director of Health, Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, to highlight the dangers of co-prescribing.

Surgeon General to physicians: Take the pledge! Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, calls on America’s doctors to turn the Tide on the opioid crisis. Read his letter. Take the pledge.

This Date in History - 25 Years Ago

October 21 is National Mammography Day, and October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. President Bill Clinton designated the third Friday of October as Mammography Day in 1993.

Contact Sarah if you’ve missed an issue, sstevens@rimed.org.
Working for You: RIMS advocacy activities

September 4, Tuesday
RIMS Physician Health Committee: Herbert Rakatansky, MD, Chair

September 11, Tuesday
American Medical Association Scope of Practice Partnership Membership Workgroup conference call

September 12, Wednesday
Primary Care Physician Advisory Committee
Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline
Governor’s Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force: Sarah Fessler, MD, Past President

Primary Election Day!
September 13, Thursday
State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant Steering Committee: Peter A. Hollmann, MD, President-elect

September 17, Monday
Senator Whitehouse’s End of Life Care Initiative
OHIC Health Care Cost Trends Collaborative Project
RIMS Board of Directors Meeting: Bradley Collins, MD, President

September 18, Tuesday
RIMS’ Diabetes Prevention Program meeting

September 19, Wednesday
OHIC Public Hearing on Health Insurer Network Regulations

September 20, Thursday
Meeting with Rhode Island Acupuncture Association regarding legislation
Diabetes Prevention Program presentation at Anchor Medical Group: Diane Siedlecki, MD, Past President

September 21, Friday
Harm Reduction Coalition meeting
Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Regulations public hearing: Catherine Cummings, MD, RIMS’ Treasurer; Joseph Lauro, MD; Scott Pasichow, MD

September 22, Saturday
Council of New England State Medical Societies and New England Delegation to the American Medical Association meeting, Waltham, Mass.: Peter Hollmann, MD, Chair; Alyn Adrain, MD, Delegate
Chiropractic Society of Rhode Island Centennial Celebration, Newport: Steven R. DeToy, RIMS Director of Government and Public Affairs

September 24, Monday
OHIC Health Care Cost Trends Collaborative Project

September 26, Wednesday
Rhode Island Foundation Healthcare Planning Committee: Robert Corwin, MD
Meeting with Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI regarding Diabetes Prevention Program

September 28, Friday
RIMS Annual Member Convivium and Awards Presentation

The 2018 election season

The American electorate has been largely spectating since 2016 but will once again have a chance to reshape the political landscape locally and nationally on November 6.

Rhode Islanders will be deciding how to fill all of the 113 seats of the General Assembly – at least in theory. In fact, at last count 41 seats of those 113 seats – 11 in the Senate and 30 in the House – will have only one name on the ballot, and 39 of those unopposed candidates are incumbents. Voters will also decide on all five statewide general offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Attorney General), and on both of Rhode Island’s seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rhode Island’s junior Democratic U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse has a Republican challenger in the person of former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Robert Flanders.

Medicine’s role: RIMS encourages physicians to be politically informed and engaged, and, at the very least, to vote in every primary and general election to counter physicians’ unfortunate reputation as inveterate non-voters. That reputation weakens medicine’s hand at the State House and in Washington. Moreover, The Code of Medical Ethics teaches that physicians have a professional obligation to themselves and their patients to seize opportunities to improve society.

Besides voting, there are other ways of being involved. Certainly not everyone is cut out to run for public office, especially in these hyper-partisan, acrimonious times. The Rhode Island Medical Political Action Committee (RIMPAC) and the American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC) make it easy for every physician to be involved in the political process. Supporting RIMPAC and AMPAC means helping medicine convey a coherent message locally and nationally. Both PACs depend on regular solicitations.

Michael Silver, MD, is Chair of RIMPAC. Peter Karczmar, MD, is Treasurer. RIMPAC coordinates with other specialty medical PACs in Rhode Island to reinforce medicine’s values and priorities through the electoral process. RIMPAC and AMPAC need and deserve the support of every doctor.
It’s a new day.

The Rhode Island Medical Society now endorses Coverys.

Coverys, the leading medical liability insurer in Rhode Island, has joined forces with RIMS to target new levels of patient safety and physician security while maintaining competitive rates. Call to learn how our alliance means a bright new day for your practice.

401-331-3207
The Rhode Island Medical Society continues to drive forward into the future with the implementation of various new programs. As such, RIMS is expanded its Affinity Program to allow for more of our colleagues in healthcare and related business to work with our membership. RIMS thanks these participants for their support of our membership.

Contact Marc Bialek for more information: 401-331-3207 or mbialek@rimed.org

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is a non-profit HMO founded in 1993 in partnership with Rhode Island’s Community Health Centers. Serving over 185,000 members, Neighborhood has doubled in membership, revenue and staff since November 2013. In January 2014, Neighborhood extended its service, benefits and value through the HealthSource RI health insurance exchange, serving 49% the RI exchange market. Neighborhood has been rated by National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as one of the Top 10 Medicaid health plans in America, every year since ratings began twelve years ago.

RIPCPC is an independent practice association (IPA) of primary care physicians located throughout the state of Rhode Island. The IPA, originally formed in 1994, represent 150 physicians from Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. RIPCPC also has an affiliation with over 200 specialty-care member physicians. Our PCP’s act as primary care providers for over 340,000 patients throughout the state of Rhode Island. The IPA was formed to provide a venue for the smaller independent practices to work together with the ultimate goal of improving quality of care for our patients.
RIMS gratefully acknowledges the practices who participate in our discounted Group Membership Program

For more information about group rates, please contact Marc Bialek, RIMS Director of Member Services