

# To the Point



From the desk of  
**Victoria Walker MD, CMD**  
Chief Medical and Quality Officer

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## **Alternate Payment Models**

The only constant in life is change; payment for medical care is no exception. The long-term care environment is experiencing big shifts in payment models, just like hospitals and clinics. The goal is to achieve better experiences for patients and residents by rewarding well-organized care delivery, with the idea that if we eliminate wasteful and harmful care, we will achieve the “Triple Aim” of better care experiences, better outcomes and lower costs. **Click here** for an overview of the alternate payment models that the Good Samaritan Society is actively participating in and how you can help.

## **Influenza Update**

We all know what an important tool vaccination of both employees and residents is to curb influenza outbreaks in long-term care. Based on preliminary reports, about 60 percent of employees and 40 percent of residents have been immunized. These numbers are far less than ideal. Please ask the director of nursing services and administrator what your location’s rate is, and encourage efforts to immunize.

## **Off-Site Access to Records and Signing Orders**

Remote access to PointClickCare with the Practitioner Engagement feature enabled can significantly improve the efficiency of work for medical providers and consultants caring for residents at the Society. This functionality is **now available**. Talk to your health information management (HIM) coordinator and ask to have this access. Fewer faxes on your desk is a great way to start a new year!

## **Safe Prescribing**

Medications on Beers criteria are known to be particularly risky when taken by elderly people. **Click here** for more information. **Seroquel** is an antipsychotic medication that has been promoted “off label” for dementia patients, with the inaccurate portrayal of being “mild.” This is the most commonly prescribed antipsychotic medication throughout

the Society. Please share this information with all prescribers in your location.

## **Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations**

INTERACT is an approach that nursing homes can take to improve communication around care of residents and reduce avoidable adverse events and hospitalizations. Please ask your director of nursing services and administrator how you can help them incorporate these tools. **Click here** to view the **INTERACT: What medical directors need to know** resource.

## **Become a Certified Medical Director**

The Core Curriculum is now available online, making it more convenient than ever to become certified. The Society will reimburse up to \$4,000 of expenses for a medical director to become certified. This is a great way to invest in your career development. **Click here** to learn more about financial help for CMD certification.

## **Advance Care Planning**

One of the greatest gifts we can offer each other is the opportunity to share what matters most to us at the end of life. The Society has embraced the Respecting Choices approach to advance care planning, and has trained staff members in every location to use this approach. You can now be reimbursed for having advance care planning discussions with patients. If you would like additional training to increase your comfort level facilitating these conversations, **click here** to view the 9.75 CME credits that Respecting Choices<sup>®</sup> offers.

Reminder: **Click here** to take the Medical Director survey.

**Click here** to view the Medical Director Appreciation Dinner invitation. Please RSVP by Feb. 29, 2016.

**Questions/Comments?** Please contact me directly at [vwalker3@good-sam.com](mailto:vwalker3@good-sam.com) or (605) 362-2214.

*Our vision: To create an environment where people are loved, valued and at peace.*

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