



The Independent Physicians Association of Nassau/Suffolk Counties is **“uniting”** physicians to keep them independent, utilizing **“clinical integration”** while its members receive fair compensation.

What to Watch for in 2015

The American Medical Association (AMA) has created a list of “10 issues for physicians to watch” for this year.

- The first is for practices to implement reliable electronic health records to ensure physicians spend more time with patients and less time with “administrative...requirements.”
- The second is putting pressure on Congress “to make reforming the Medicare payment system a priority...to avoid a 21 percent pay cut.”
- Thirdly, the AMA is doubling their efforts “to make sure health insurers... maintain adequate networks” so patients get the care they need.
- “Through treatment, prevention, and education, the AMA looks to, “lead policy development” on America’s prescription drug abuse/ overdose problem.
- Physicians need to incorporate new resources and knowledge to assist them in “preventing type 2 diabetes and heart disease.”
- Acquiring the resources and knowledge above will be available to physicians through the help of the JAMA Network and their “new journal” that helps “physicians keep up with clinical knowledge.”
- The seventh issue is “working towards changes in graduate medical education to improve physician education....”
- Eight: The AMA is modernizing their code of ethics, which hasn’t been updated for 167 years.
- Nine: New “tools” currently in testing will be available for physicians to “boost...satisfaction and the quality of their patient care.”
- Lastly, the AMA wants physicians to keep tabs on the judicial system this year as the courts hear cases regarding “critical health care issues.”

IPA of Nassau/Suffolk Counties welcomes our new members:

FARMINGVILLE MEDICAL GROUP

Internal Medicine
Arary Canavarros, MD
Sangeetha Kamath, MD
Kim Vitacco, NP
Guylaine Saintilien, PA

L.I. BONE & JOINT, LLP

Orthopaedics
Michael Fracchia, MD
Richard Savino, MD
Richard Liguori, MD
Brian McGinley, MD
John Yu, MD
John Hubbell, MD
Henry Marano, MD
Rasel Rana, DO
Podiatry
Stephen Densen, DPM

STAT-HEALTHCARE SMITHTOWN

Emergency Medicine
Dana Amodeo, DO
James Bopp, MD
Mitchell Caplin, MD
Michael Catapano, MD
Paolo Coppola, MD
Kerry Cronin, MD
Charles Dalmedo, MD
Patricia Daly, MD
Natalie Digioia, MD
Jennifer Ehlers, DO
Claudia Fernandez, MD
Johannes Filpo, MD
Thomas Fischer, MD
Michael Franklin, MD
Richard Goldstein, MD
Stephen Havasy, MD
Alan Katz, MD
Beverly Kraszewski-Silverman, DO
Craig Lerman, MD
Carol Palmieri, MD
Sandy Picone, MD
Teresa Rainone, MD
Marc Salzberg, MD
Bruce Sanderov, MD
Leila Schneitzer, MD
John Shallat, MD
Perry Shapiro, MD
Ioanis Siderias, DO
Ronni Sollazzo, MD
Victor Tarsia, MD
Dawn Tottenham, MD
Caroline Via, MD

NEW INDEPENDENT PHYSICIANS:

Richard Feldstein, MD
Gastroenterology, Smithtown
Jezu Jacob, DO
Orthopaedics, Commack
Lisa Marx, DO
Family Medicine, Bayport

Ranjana Mehta, MD
Internal Medicine, East Moriches
Charles Rothberg, MD
Otolaryngology, Patchogue
Michael Torelli, MD
Family Medicine, East Islip

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Robert Lazar, MD <i>Gastroenterology</i>	Michael Shanik, MD <i>Endocrinology</i>
Charles Rothberg, MD <i>Ophthalmology</i>	

IPA Executive Administration

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Jo Ann Marino <i>Director of Clinical Integration/Physician Liaison</i>	Steven Heisler, MBA <i>Physician Membership Administrator</i>

Quality Care Committee Members

John L. Franco, MD <i>President & Medical Director</i>	Michael Shanik, MD <i>Endocrinology</i>
Mohammed Azaz, MD <i>Family Practice</i>	Horia Vlase, MD <i>Nephrology</i>
	Anthony Spadaro, MD <i>Pulmonology</i>

Poverty Awareness Simulation....

On February 7th, 2015, Dr. Franco participated in a poverty awareness simulation at St. Anthony of Padua Church in East Northport hosted by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Long Island.

50 volunteers were each given a “role” (some grouped in families) to achieve a simple objective most of us take for granted. To get food, clothing, and shelter for a month on very limited resources.

Role playing vendors including social services, a bank, food store, and transportation were set up to offer goods and services all by the rules society has in place. Dr. Franco was a case worker issuing food stamps and temporary family assistance.

Each volunteer had to play his part. Those life descriptions included single parents with no income, disabled adults, uneducated, substance dependent, and the minimum wage earner. They all had poverty in common. No one got through the month without problems.

The exercise was an overwhelming success in bringing more awareness to just how difficult it is to live in poverty on Long Island. The increased understanding of the arduous life and struggle the poor must go through will enable the volunteer members of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul to better respond to the needs of the poor and advocate for their rights.

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To submit articles for consideration for future review, please send to Frank at ipasuffolkcounty@gmail.com

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE...

“The Times They Are-A Changin”

Bob Dylan’s recent speech at The MusicCares Gala brought to mind some of his greatest hits including the above referenced title.

No one today will deny that healthcare is rapidly ‘changin’ and physicians should not stagnate in repugnance toward this change. “Don’t criticize what you don’t understand” a lyrical phrase that is pertinent to so many facets of life is especially appropriate to our profession. We are each well trained in our own fields of medicine. Sometimes not so much in the business side of things. Volume to value, provider incentives, quality measures, clinical integration, shared risk, the list goes on and on.

As health care costs increase, methods for diagnosing, treating, and coordinating care that improve outcomes while reducing costs will be required. We should not let the suits or bean counters be the sole agents to create value oriented payment models. The highly complex skill necessary for provider contracting along with intimidating administrative and governmental regulations has driven many of our colleagues to employment by hospital systems.

This is NOT the answer.

Vertical integration (Hospital-Provider Alliances) will increase costs with the lion’s share going to you-know-who.

Your IPA works for YOU and is committed to its mission of keeping the independent physician - independent. Practice Management of America is the MSO that will be the physician led organization with methods and services including contracting to ensure providers’ success.

Yes! The times are changin’. As healthcare providers caring for patients WE must be the architects of that change or “you’ll sink like a stone”.

John L. Franco
John L. Franco, MD
President

“Second Wave of Owning Your Future”

If you are a member of the Nassau/Suffolk IPA, or the office manager of a physician who is a member, you are cordially invited to attend the PMA informational meeting.

When: Tuesday, February 17, 2015, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: The Watermill, 711 Smithtown Bypass, Smithtown



Come and learn about **Practice Management of America (PMA)**, a newly formed management services organization (MSO) that offers an exciting opportunity for members of the IPA of Nassau/Suffolk Counties.

Buffet Dinner • Giveaways

Please r.s.v.p. to ipasuffolkcounty@gmail.com. If you have not received an invitation in the mail, please call IPA administrator Frank DiMotta at 631-698-1900

