

Taconic **TALK**

From the Taconic IPA.
Exclusive physician network for **MVP**.

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Finance Committee
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meets quarterly on the third
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Medical Council Committee
Michael D. Freedman, M.D.
meets on the fourth Thursday
of the month at **6:30 PM**

Peer Review Committee
James Wise, M.D.
meets on the first Thursday
every other month at **6:00 PM**

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A. JOHN BLAIR, III, M.D. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

The Taconic IPA currently has 221 physicians that have become recognized through the NCQA Physician Recognition Program.

We congratulate the following physicians who have achieved NCQA recognition since the last issue of the

Taconic Talk, through Physician Practice Connections (PPC) a component of NCQA's Physician Recognition Program:



Bridge Street Family Medicine

Eugene P. Heslin, M.D.
Laura J. Decker, M.D.
Scott J. Costley, D.O.
Elizabeth M. Costley, D.O.
Todd E. Baldwin, D.O.

Dermatology & Allergy Assoc. of the Hudson Valley

Vincent S. Beltrani, M.D.
Vincent P. Beltrani, M.D.
Aaron Warshawsky, M.D.

Gastroenterology Associates

Sunil Khurana, M.D.
Khurram Ashraf, D.O.
Salvatore Buffa, M.D.
Rodney Camp, D.O.
Robert Dean, M.D.
Craig Goldsweig, M.D.
Peter Varunok, M.D.
Arif Muslim, M.D.

Hudson Valley Primary Care Network

Mark Foster, M.D.
Adam Rubinstein, M.D.

Hudson Valley Urology

Mark Libin, M.D.
Evan Goldfischer, M.D.
Jason Krumholtz, M.D.
Mary Dean, M.D.
Daniel Katz, M.D.
Michael Solliday, M.D.
Paul Pietrow, M.D.
Naeem Rahman, M.D.
Jose Sotolongo, M.D.
Narenda Kotecha, M.D.
Scott Kahn, M.D.

Prime Columbia Greene Medical Associates

Clarence B. Henry, M.D.
Samuel K. Merkhani, M.D.
Tamton Mustapha, M.D.
Joseph J. Fusco, M.D.
Rajesh Shukla, M.D.
Rahma M. Mustapha, M.D.

Sawkill Family Medicine

Geraldine Keyes, M.D.
Michael Safran, M.D.

Continued

Physician Practice Connections (PPC) recognizes physician practices that use information systematically to enhance the quality of patient care. Meeting PPC standards means that practices have *connections*—to patients, to information, to other practitioners and to evidence.

The Taconic IPA representatives are actively working with practices in an effort to become recognized through the NCQA Physician Recognition Program. Patients seeking information on NCQA-recognized physicians are able to search on the NCQA Web site (<http://www.ncqa.org/PhysicianQualityReports.htm>).

Taconic IPA continues to cover all NCQA charges to physicians and the IPA representatives are assisting practices in submitting materials. Any offices interested in participating in the NCQA recognition program should call Jennie Youmans at **(845) 897-6363**.

MEDALLIES EXPANDS USE OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Implementation of EHR technologies is underway in practices throughout the Hudson Valley, with further expansion expected throughout 2007. "Many practices have completed the EMR planning process and are moving into the implementation phase....it's a very exciting time," says Don Quackenbush, director of sales and marketing at MedAllies.

MedAllies supplies practices with software from NextGen Healthcare Information Systems and eClinicalWorks. Both are leading national vendors in the health records marketplace and offer comprehensive solutions that are CCHIT certified. "CCHIT Certification is a seal of approval that many practices are looking for. It assures the practice that the software has the functionality that is needed to be successful in their practices."

The MedAllies implementation team works with practices to set the software to match the practice clinical and business goals, with an emphasis on pre-planning. Data Migration (conversion) services and training services are also provided. "Our plan provides up-front services to the practices, so that when the practice goes live, the software will perform well with minimal modifications."

Practices are excited that the MedAllies provides quality software and services at a reduced cost. MedAllies offerings are designed to limit the up-front costs involved with implementing EHR. A monthly subscription fee brings the cost of EHR within reach to practices of every size. The cost of the software has been offset by grants from NYS and other government sources.

Interested practices should contact Don Quackenbush at **(845) 896-0131 extension 3018** for more information.

THINC RHIO, INC. UPDATE

An exciting year begins for THINC RHIO, Inc. as it kicked off the new year with the successful completion of the Nationwide Health Information Network Prototype-Phase 1 project with IBM. The prototype was showcased in Washington D.C. on January 25 and 26, which demonstrated health information exchange within and between three distinct communities: THINC-Hudson Valley, NY; NCHICA-Research Triangle and Rockingham County, NC; and Danville, VA. Interoperability and new capabilities between health information systems were realized between the local hospitals and the New York State Department of Health for resource utilization data and for biosurveillance. In addition, 25 patients from the THINC region, called the "Patients of the Future," participated in this project and were given their own Personal Health Record key that contains their personal medical history and list of medications.

In January, THINC applied for the HEAL NY-Phase 3 grant application to design and build the next generation health

information exchange platform called the Hudson Valley Health Information Exchange (HVHIE.) The HVHIE will expand the existing community health information exchange, enable new functionality at the point of care and support quality reporting, and enhance the value of the NHIN prototype work and Electronic Health Records (EHR) adoption efforts underway under HEAL NY-Phase1. THINC's HVHIE grant application received tremendous support from the Hudson Valley community and as such, 20 hospitals, 135 physicians from four practices, one community health center, six payers, two labs, two ancillary data providers, and two public health departments have all signed on as stakeholders in the project.

In addition, THINC has signed on as a stakeholder in two other HEAL NY-Phase3 grant proposals which are: Kingston Hospitals' "Hudson Valley e-Imaging Project" for the community wide sharing of imaging data; and Putnam County Department of Health's "Public Health Information

Technology Project for the Hudson Valley" which is to foster bi-directional exchange of public health data.

THINC continues to gain momentum as it extends its outreach into the broader eight county THINC region of the Hudson Valley for the implementation of electronic health records and the development of the Hudson Valley Health Information Exchange. THINC is bringing great value to the Hudson Valley by demonstrating that a true community vision in combination with the effective utilization of resources and the selection of the best of breed state-of-the-art technologies, can indeed create new possibilities to enhance the quality of the Healthcare in the Hudson Valley. To borrow an excerpt from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, "of the people, by the people, for the people."

THINC is very grateful for the vision and support of the Taconic IPA, without which none of this would be possible.



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