

# Taconic **TALK**

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

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*Credentialing Committee*  
Imtiaz Mallick, M.D.  
meets on the first Tuesday  
of the month at **7:30 AM**

*Finance Committee*  
David R. Field, C.P.A.  
meets quarterly on the third  
Thursday of the month  
at **6:00 PM**

*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**

## TACONIC OFFICE INFO

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



### National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Taconic IPA Provider Representatives have assisted thirty-nine physicians and six practices in achieving NCQA recognition. **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:

#### The Children's Medical Group, PLLC

Dr. Herschel Lessin  
Dr. Sejal Dalwadi  
Dr. Sharon Mae Britos-Neves  
Dr. Dominique Aristide  
Dr. Carl Sorgen  
Dr. John Sieverding  
Dr. Nancy Crocker  
Dr. Lawrence Schaffer  
Dr. Christopher Killion  
Dr. Adrian Gruszko  
Dr. Diane Cicatello  
Dr. Daniel Aronzon  
Dr. Fe Aplasca  
Dr. Marc Habert  
Dr. Karen Desio  
Dr. Angela Coultman  
Dr. Aaron Blum  
Dr. Lynne Liptay  
Dr. David Fenner

#### Dr. Ahmad Masood

#### New Century Medical

Dr. Kavita Aggarwal  
Dr. Patricia Shannon  
Dr. Jose Fontanez  
Dr. Henry Westmoreland  
Dr. Davide DeBellis  
Dr. Lorraine Nardi  
Dr. Alan Gross  
Dr. Carol Miyake

#### TLC Pediatrics, PC

Dr. Parvaneh Borojeni  
Dr. Joseph Calabro  
Dr. Kimberly Clare  
Dr. Michele-Marie Constant  
Dr. Christian Hietanen  
Dr. Joseph Malak



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 51 practices in an effort to become recognized through the NCQA Physician Recognition Program. **I strongly encourage physicians to seek recognition at a national level for their efforts to deliver quality patient care.** Patients seeking information on NCQA recognized physicians are

able to search on NCQA's 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 contact Jennie Youmans at **(845) 897-6363**.

### **DOQ-IT (Doctor's Office Quality – Information Technology)**

Medicare (CMS) is providing extensive assistance, through IPRO, to physician offices in planning a migration path from paper-based health records to EHR systems. IPRO will provide physicians with free assistance to select, implement, and optimize IT systems such as electronic registries, electronic prescribing, and electronic health records.

Taconic IPA has teamed up with MedAllies and IPRO to make sure Taconic IPA physicians receive the most comprehensive assistance with regard to the DOQ-IT project. Tools and guides on health information technology are available to facilitate physician office transitions to electronic systems.

Dr. McClellan, Administrator of CMS, has stated that over the next several years Medicare intends to introduce incentives into the current reimbursement system. Communities with high levels of DOQ-IT participation will be considered more favorably for the early phases of incentive introduction.

**It is critical that the Hudson Valley has a high percentage of adult primary care physicians participating in the DOQ-IT program to help us get into incentive programs at an early stage.** Please find the enclosed DOQ-IT participation agreement. The agreement simply demonstrates the practice is interested in learning about health information technology and will have access to tools and resources to plan a migration path. A physician office can opt out of the program at any point in time. **Please fax your completed DOQ-IT participation agreement to Jennie Youmans at (845) 897-1035.** Questions about the DOQ-IT program can be directed to Jennie Youmans at **(845) 897-6363** or Dianne Koval at **(845) 298-8360**.

### **Electronic Health Record Certification**

In July, the Certified Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) will announce the first listing of certified electronic health records.

I am extremely concerned with physician practices purchasing or considering to purchase, Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems that will ultimately not be certified by CCHIT. **I cannot emphasize enough the importance for physicians to understand what the consequences of implementing non-certified EHRs in their practice will mean in terms of future reimbursement and incentives to their practice. Physicians choosing systems unable to meet certification requirements are at risk of not being able to receive future payer and purchaser incentives.** Taconic IPA has committed to its physicians that only certified systems will be endorsed by the IPA.

CCHIT is focused on ensuring physician practices:

- Reduce the risk of health information technology investment by physicians.
- Ensure interoperability (compatibility) of health information technology products.
- Assure payers and purchasers providing incentives for EHR adoption that return on investment (ROI) will be improved quality.

I strongly encourage physicians to learn more about CCHIT. Physicians can stay abreast of certification via an electronic newsletter. Sign up for CCHIT e-News at <http://www.cchit.org/about>.





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