

Taconic TALK

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

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Taconic IPA Committees & Committee Chairmen

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**

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



National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

The Taconic IPA currently has 373 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:



Yuk-Wah Chan, MD

Walter Stephen Dobushak, DO

Cardiology Consultants of Westchester, PC (34 physicians)

The Westchester Medical Group (82 physicians)

Additionally this group has recognition in the Heart Stroke & Diabetes Recognition Programs, which they achieved on their own.

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**.

TACONIC OFFICE INFO

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Electronic Health Records Update

MedAllies continues to rollout EHR solutions for physicians in the Hudson Valley, emphasizing quality in implementation and support services. Over the past 12 months, over 35 offices have implemented EHR with MedAllies, transitioning their practice from paper records to the electronic charts made available by EHR.

This transition is made affordable by the MedAllies Subscription Agreement, which is designed to limit the up-front costs involved in purchasing an EHR application. Instead of a large up-front purchase, practices pay a monthly subscription, which is based upon the number of providers in the practice. This fee covers costs that are typically required to support physicians in the use of the EHR.

If you are interested in learning more about eClinicalWorks™, please contact Don Quackenbush at **(845) 896-0191 x3018**.

THINC RHIO, Inc. Update

“Humanity’s greatest advances are not in its discoveries - but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity,” Bill Gates, co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bill Gates’ recent commencement speech at Harvard talked about the word complexity and how “the complexity of certain things in society — the tax system and the federal budget, for instance — hinders people from fully grasping them, and ultimately impedes change.” And how “a host of technological advances, such as the Internet, have helped erase those complexities by allowing the best minds in an area to work together on common problems in ways they couldn’t do before.” He also stated that “Cutting through complexity to find a solution runs through four predictable stages: determine a goal, find the highest-leverage approach, discover the ideal technology for that approach, and in the meantime, make the smartest application of the technology that you already have.”

Bill Gates iterated what the Taconic IPA had recognized long ago in 2001, that using technology to reduce the

complexity of the flow and access to a person’s health information was a necessity that needed to be addressed in the Hudson valley region, in order to help improve the quality of care given to all consumers. They pioneered the concept in this region and helped implement the first internet based community health information portal which includes 5 hospitals, over 500 physicians, and 2 national labs. Subsequently with the launch of the THINC RHIO in 2005, the Hudson Valley community came together and became partners in their own healthcare.

In 2007, THINC is further expanding this vision to include additional hospitals and physicians and further streamlining the flow of health information in what is now being referred to as the Hudson Valley Health Information Exchange (HVHIE.) The HVHIE will provide a state-of-the-art health information exchange that expands the existing community health information exchange, enable new functionalities to be delivered to the point of care and in the aggregate for quality reporting, and enhance the value of the nationwide health information network (NHIN) architecture prototype work and Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption which has already begun.

The HVHIE infrastructure will facilitate the exchange of health information among:

- **Hospitals, Clinics and Physicians**, who will utilize the HVHIE to improve the quality of care for patients, eliminate redundant testing, better coordinate care, and participate in quality improvement initiatives.
- **Payers** who will utilize the HVHIE’s aggregation tools for quality reporting and quality improvement efforts.
- **Laboratories and Ancillary Data Providers** who will provide information through the HVHIE to physicians and hospitals in the region.
- **Public Health Departments** - THINC RHIO will work with the Hudson Valley health providers to develop strategies for utilizing the HVHIE to automate the aggregation and transmission of information directly to public health entities.

Though THINC's region is the Hudson Valley, THINC's collaborative approach to the healthcare IT agenda and progress to date is recognized at the state and national levels since it is advancing significantly, far ahead of many of its peers, in the almost two years of existence.

THINC will soon launch a Web site which will serve as a vehicle for transparency of its work. In addition, recognizing that connecting with the consumer is an important part of its healthcare IT agenda, the THINC committee meetings are now open to the public. As such, the Hudson Valley community is welcome to come to the meetings, to learn, collaborate, and voice their ideas on various topics.



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