



CAP for Physicians now up and running



As of January, practicing DOs can participate in the AOA Clinical Assessment Program (CAP) for Physicians and are able to enter their data for the diabetes mellitus measure set using DO-Online. Two other measure sets—coronary artery disease and women’s health screening—will soon be available. A Web-based performance measurement program, CAP for Physicians allows DOs to compare their clinical outcome measures with those of their peers and with national benchmarks.

Each measure set has specific clinical indicators, which are essentially best practices that DOs should follow when screening or treating patients. For diabetes, clinical indicators include the frequency of retinal and foot exams, the assessment and control of hyperlipidemia and hypertension, and the use of prescribed angiotension-converting enzyme inhibitor (known as ACEI) and angiotension receptor blocker (known as ARB) medications. (To learn more about the measure sets and the evolution of CAP, which began as a self-evaluation tool for residency programs, see the cover article “Hats Off to CAP” in the April 2005 issue.)

Program’s benefits

“CAP for Physicians will provide your office practice with the tools to measure performance, identify

opportunity gaps and improve patient care,” emphasizes AOA President Philip L. Shettle, DO. “By participating in CAP, you will be better prepared as health insurance companies, Congress, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other entities implement pay-for-performance programs.”

Once a DO completes the data entry requirements, he or she will receive 20 hours of AOA Category 1-B continuing medical education credit per measure set.

In July, when CAP for Physicians opened for registration, AOA Trustee William M. Silverman, DO, became the first practicing osteopathic physician to sign up for CAP.

“I encourage other osteopathic physicians to follow suit and participate in this innovative and important AOA program,” says Dr Silverman, a family physician from Maitland, Fla. “Through CAP, the osteopathic medical profession will be able to demonstrate the high-quality care DOs provide patients.

“Most important, osteopathic physicians will be able to use CAP to improve clinical outcomes.”

Registering for CAP

Osteopathic physicians who are members of the AOA may participate in CAP for Physicians free of charge. CAP participants need only a computer with access to the Internet. After logging on to DO-Online’s home page at www.do-online.org, DOs can start using the program by clicking on “CAP for Physicians.”

For more information on using CAP for Physicians, contact Arlene Sattler, the AOA’s manager of quality programs, by calling (312) 202-8063 or (800) 621-1773, Ext 8063; or by sending e-mail to asattler@osteopathic.org.

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—Carolyn Schierhorn



Using DO-Online at www.do-online.org, practicing DOs can now participate in the AOA Clinical Assessment Program for Physicians. The diabetes mellitus measure set is the first program available.