

NARA SPRING CONFERENCE 2019

The New Health Care Environment Crossing the Health Care Road with NARA

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

8:00—8:30 a.m. Light Breakfast and Conference Check In

8:30—9:15 a.m. President's Welcome

- Stephen Hunter, PT, DPT, OCS
NARA President

9:15—10:15 a.m. Current Health Care Legislation and Regulation: “A riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.”

Is there a “key”, as Winston Churchill said, to understanding the current legislative and regulatory landscape for healthcare? There are innumerable pieces of the puzzle: a bitterly divided and gridlocked Congress with each party jockeying for control in 2020; a Democratic party searching for the right message between Progressives who seek Medicare for All and a Green New Deal and moderates who fear a lurch too far to the left; Republicans who want to shift more responsibility for health care to the states through Medicaid block grants and Medicaid and ACA waivers; a mercurial President who seeks to dismantle the Affordable Care Act but without a replacement plan; regulatory agencies intent on pushing the limits of their authority to implement health care initiatives which could not pass Congress; large impending spending reductions mandated by the non-defense and defense spending caps; the reinstatement of the national debt limit; a burgeoning federal deficit fed by tax cuts and defense spending; and the President’s budget proposal which calls for large reductions in Medicare, Medicaid, and other social service programs. This session will explore these elements of the puzzle and discuss whether there is a “key” which will help providers and other health care stakeholders prepare for what the future may bring.

- George G. Olsen, Esq.
Williams & Jensen, PLLC

10:15—10:30 a.m. Break

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Wednesday, May 15, 2019 continued

10:30—11:45 a.m. Medicare for All, Medicare for More, Medicare Opt-In

With Democrats taking control of the House in January, Medicare for All proposals have become a much greater focal point than they have in the past. Some of the Democrats running for President have embraced the concept while others are being more cautious, as is the Democratic leadership in the House. There are several permutations of the Medicare proposals: some Medicare for All proposals would require everyone to enroll in a Medicare plan and do away with the commercial health insurance (both individual and group), other proposals would permit individuals over a certain age (e.g. 50 or 55) to enroll in Medicare, still other proposals would create a “public option” Medicare plan as an alternative to commercial insurance. Who champions these proposals and who opposes them? What impact will each type of proposal have on health care providers under Medicare and commercial insurance plans? What happens to the Affordable Care Act and the health insurance exchanges if any of these proposals become law? Do any of them stand a chance of being enacted and, if so, when. These questions and more will be taken up by the panel.

- Congressional staffers familiar with the Medicare for All proposals have been invited to participate on the panel.
- Moderator: George G. Olsen, Esq.

11:45—1:15 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:15—2:15 p.m. MIPS: Data and Lessons Learned from New Benchmarking Project for Payers; and MIPS and Rehab Agencies

A new benchmarking project has collected patient reported outcome data from 4.5 million patients with the purpose of establishing benchmarks for payers and MIPS. Severity adjusting found that specific factors were related to patients outcomes (payer status, income, initial scores and some comorbidities). There were some limitations that may provide helpful lessons learned for providers collecting outcome data and\or participating in the MIPS program. The lead researcher on the project will describe the undertaking in detail while NARA members familiar with the project will examine its potential use and limitations. Attendees will receive an update on the status of Rehab Agencies and participation in MIPS, submitting through QCDR and how the data can be used for benchmarking.

- Dr. John Brooks, Lead Researcher at the University of South Carolina
- Heather Smith, PT, MPH
Director of Quality at American Physical Therapy Association

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Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Continued

- 2:15—3:15 p.m.** **NARA Legislative Priorities and Preparation for Hill Visits**
NARA's Board of Directors has spent a considerable amount of time developing legislative priorities for the association for the 116th Congress. This session will discuss those priorities and seek an open dialogue with NARA members about them. The session will also prepare NARA members for their visits to Capitol Hill.
- Mark Anderson, PT
President, Mountain Land Rehabilitation, Inc.
➤ George G. Olsen, Esq.
- 3:15—3:30 p.m.** **Break**
- 3:30—5:00 p.m.** **The HHS Office of Inspector General and the Rehabilitation Industry**
During this session our speaker will discuss how the OIG is using data to fulfill their mission, how the OIG recommends Covered Entities utilize data and involve Compliance to be compliant in a time of change and Types of date that Therapy Providers should be looking at regarding their businesses.
- Laura Ellis, Senior Counsel
Office of Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services
- 5:00—6:30 p.m.** **Welcome Reception and Solution Partner Fest**

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Thursday, May 16, 2019

8:00—11:30 a.m.	Conference Attendees Visit Capitol Hill
11:30—1:00 p.m.	Keynote Address by Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS) Congressman Guest was elected to Congress in 2018 and serves on the House Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Ethics Committees. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and holds a law degree from the University of Mississippi.
1:00—2:00 p.m.	NARA Members Share Comments about Their Visits with Members of Congress and Staffs
2:00—2:15 p.m.	Break
2:15—3:45 p.m.	Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (“MedPAC”) Recommendations for Post-Acute Care Providers For several years, MedPAC, the independent agency which advises Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program, has been studying the payment system for post-acute care providers. Among other initiatives, MedPAC has supported a uniform payment system for all post-acute care, examined the adequacy of Medicare payments for post-acute care providers, and studied outcome measures across post-acute care providers as well as provider-reported quality measures. This panel will describe MedPAC’s findings and recommendations with respect to the post-acute sector. ➤ Invited speaker from MedPAC ➤ Nicole Ruzinski Bertsch, Esq. Williams & Jensen, PLLC ➤ George G. Olsen, Esq.
3:45—4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00—5:00 p.m.	NARA Membership Annual Business Meeting This session is for current NARA members. Those who are attending the conference and interested in becoming a member of NARA may attend.
5:00—5:30 p.m.	NARA Board of Directors and Newly Elected Officers Meeting

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7:00—8:15 a.m.	OJ and Outlook with George (<i>Additional registration and fee</i>) No speech! No lectures! No notes or outline! This session is just a free-wheeling conversation about the inside baseball of Washington including politics, health care policy, the 2020 elections, and virtually any other topic attendees wish to discuss. The conversation is an informal and entertaining way to delve into the forces that drive health policy-makers.
8:00—8:30 a.m.	Daily Check In - Breakfast and Membership Networking
8:30—9:30 a.m.	President Trump's FY 2020 Budget Proposal to Congress—Signals and Flares about Where His Administration Wants to Take Medicare and Medicaid. The budget proposal which the President sent to Congress calls for significant reductions in spending for Medicare and Medicaid as well as substantial policy changes such as a unified payment system for post-acute care providers, site neutral payments for certain types of providers, greatly strengthened fraud and abuse efforts and enhanced funding for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program, restructuring Medicaid into a block grant program to provide states with greater flexibility to define benefits and impose eligibility limitations, and increased support for innovative payment models such as value-based insurance design and bundled payments. This session will describe the President's proposals and portend if and when they may be implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Speaker invited from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services➤ George G. Olsen, Esq.
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Payment Reform: Recap of Pre-Conference Session on PDPM and Updates on PDGM Implementation This session will provide NARA members who could not attend the pre-conference session on PDPM with a recap of the presentations and discussions. We will also discuss implementation timelines for providers on PDGM. The session will conclude with a forum for broad discussion of PDPM and PDGM across the entirety of NARA. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mark McDavid, OTR, RAC-CT, CHC Seagrove Rehab Partners➤ Ellen R. Strunk, PT, MS, GCS, CEEAA, CHC Rehab Resources & Consulting, Inc.

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Friday, May 17, 2019 Continued

10:30—10:45 a.m. Break

10:45—12:00 p.m. **A Little Help from Our Friends**

This long-standing and much-anticipated session affords the organizations with which NARA works closely to share issues, ideas, and proposals important to them directly with NARA's members.

- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association
- American Health Care Association
- National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care
- American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

12:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**