



TACHC

Texas Association of Community Health Centers

TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up Volume: 9 Issue: 1

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't Miss the Boat! Register for TACHC Policy & Issues Forum NOW

It's not too late to register for TACHC's Policy and Issues Forum held in Austin, January 30-31. Omni Austin is sold out but you can still book [at a nearby hotel](#) and attend. Given what a critical year 2017 will be for health centers, we urge our members to participate. [Click here for more information](#) and to register for the forum. Contact [Mary Allen](#) with questions.

Lunchtime Policy and Advocacy Webcast Hosted by TACHC

Please join TACHC Executive Director José Camacho and staff for an overview of the 2017 federal and state legislative agendas and our advocacy strategy. This webcast will cover key issues health centers are facing in Congress and the Texas legislature. The webcast will also offer a basic overview of policy issues accessible to ALL health center staff, board members, and supporters. We encourage you to attend [Thursday, January 12 at 12:00pm CST](#). Contact [Courtney Weaver](#) for more information.

HRSA Webcast on Health and Other Discrimination Protections for the LGBTQ

Community

This webcast is a collaboration of HRSA's Office of Regional Operations (ORO) San Francisco/Denver and the Office of Civil Rights-Diversity and Inclusion. Tune in Monday, January 10 at 12:00PM CST. [Click here to register.](#)

IT

Attestation Worksheets Now Available for 2016 Medicare EHR Incentive Program

The EHR Incentive Programs attestation system will be open from January 3 - February 28, 2017. Providers must attest by the deadline to avoid a 2018 payment adjustment. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released two attestation worksheets for [eligible professionals](#) to use as a reference when attesting for the 2016 Medicare EHR Incentive Program in CMS' [Registration and Attestation System](#). CMS also encourages providers to visit the [CMS 2016 Program Requirements](#) webpage on the CMS website to access the worksheets and review additional resources for 2016 EHR Incentive Program participation.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Program Assistance Letter (PAL) Released Outlining 2017 UDS Changes

Recently released [PAL 2017-02](#) outlines approved changes to the 2017 UDS that will be reported by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes by February 15, 2018. Changes include a revision of the clinical quality measures in Tables 6B and 7 to align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' electronic-specified Clinical Quality Measures (e-CQMs) and a new Appendix E to collect additional information pertaining to telehealth, along with outreach and enrollment assistance.

New Five-Part Board Chair Leadership Webcast Series

[Dimensions of Board Chair Leadership](#) is a five-part series for health center board chairs. Beginning on January 11 and held every second Wednesday of the month, each webcast looks at a dimension of board chair responsibilities and highlights practices for improvement. This series will allow board members to improve their own performance, the performance of the full board and ultimately the performance of the health center in achieving its mission in the community.

CLINICAL

Addressing the Unique Challenges of Opioid Use Disorder in Women

Drug overdose is the number one cause of injury death in the U.S. The amount of prescription opioids dispensed in the U.S. nearly quadrupled from 1999 to 2013. The recent increase in these overdose deaths are related to the misuse of opioids and heroin. Women are closing the death gap with men as their rates of opioid overdose death skyrocket. [Click here for more information and to register](#) for this webcast, held on Tuesday, January 17, at 12:00pm CST.

Guide to Improving Patient Safety in Primary Care Settings by Engaging Patients and Families: Be Prepared to Be Engaged

This webcast, held on Wednesday, January 18 at 11:00pm CST, is sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), MedStar Health Research Institute and Clinical Directors Network. This webcast is also pending for up to 1.5 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). [Click here to register.](#)

Evidence-Based Cholesterol Management Protocols

Patients with elevated low-density lipoprotein cholesterol are at high risk of heart attack, stroke, and heart disease. [Check out Million Hearts'](#) evidence-based cholesterol management protocols, including a cardiovascular disease risk calculator to help manage and lower cholesterol levels among your at-risk patients.

OUTREACH

2017 Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment Update

As we begin a new year, 8.8 million Americans have already signed up for coverage through HealthCare.gov since open enrollment began on November 1. In Texas, over 1.1 million people have signed up for coverage representing a slight increase in the total enrolled when compared to last year at this time. Certified Application Counselors should remind consumers to apply and enroll into a health plan

by January 15 for coverage beginning February 1, 2017. For questions contact [RexAnn Shotwell](#).

GROUP PURCHASING

Office of Pharmacy Affairs Registration Window Now Open

The window to register both a clinic site and a retail pharmacy to be eligible for 340B pricing began January 1 and continues through January 15. You may also add a new retail pharmacy to contract with for pharmacy services ("bill to/ship to") during this time. When registering, the new site will be eligible for 340B pricing effective April 1.

The registration process occurs electronically via the [OPA website](#). Remember that you cannot register a site to be eligible for 340B pricing until it is listed in the EHB. It is critical for any and all clinic sites that are listed in the EHB to also be listed in the database in order for patients seen at the clinic sites to fill their prescriptions with 340B. If you have any questions, please contact [Lynn Ford](#).

NEWS

TACHC 2017 Membership Directory Now Available!

With the input of our members and the help of some awesome TACHC staff, the 2017 Membership Directory has been completed and is [available online](#) now! A big thanks goes out to all those who helped put this year's directory together.

ACE Status Achieved by FQHCs in Texas

[An Advocacy Center of Excellence](#), or ACE, is any Health Center that has achieved certain measures of advocacy success and demonstrated ongoing commitment to advocacy by making it an organizational priority. Community Health Development, Inc. received silver designation and Community Healthcare Network recently achieved bronze designation. Congratulations, centers!

Did you know that the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up is available to ALL TACHC members and ALL your staff? [Share this link with your health center staff to sign up for the Wrap!](#)

Don't miss out. Follow TACHC on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

Send **NEWS** about your health center to be considered for inclusion in the TACHC Weekly Wrap-Up to TACHC Health Center Support Coordinator [Corinne Medina](#).

Sign up to receive the [TACHC Weekly Wrap Up!](#)

TACHC · United States

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