



South Dakota Chapter

Governor's Message

Eric Larson, MD MACP

eric.larson@sanfordhealth.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Governor's Message

Hospitalist Committee

Important Dates

Membership
Committee

Early Career Physicians

Greetings South Dakota ACP Membership. I hope you are thriving this winter as we set our sights toward spring and the National ACP meeting April 3-5 in New Orleans. The South Dakota Chapter will be teaming up with the Chapters in North Dakota and Rhode Island for our state reception Friday night April 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Aquarium. Please see the link for details and registration. The SD ACP is again working hard in Pierre on behalf of our patients and the profession, led by Rob Allison and Kelly Evans-Hullinger. Please watch for emails from your chapter to help reach out to your legislators on bills that are important to all of us.

Leadership Day will be happening in late April this year. The SD ACP delegation will be attending with our usual contingent of a medical student and resident along with a practicing physician or two. There will likely be 3 or 4 pieces of legislation of national importance that we will bring to Capital Hill and review merits with our 2 senators and one representative. Their offices are always very welcoming and interested in the perspectives of the American College of Physicians.

It seems a long way off right now, but our state meeting will be held in Keystone, SD October 2-3 2025. Our meeting presenters are all set, and we will be treated to a great set of speakers, both locally and nationally. As a fun aside, it looks like we will be having our dinner Thursday night at the Crazy Horse Monument preceded by a trip up onto Crazy Horse's arm. I know many of you have been there before, but it is a wonderful experience. Hope to see many of you there!



Hospitalist Committee

Catherine Leadabrand, MD FACP

cackdoc@gmail.com

This month, I want to again highlight valuable ACP resources for hospitalists and beyond. The ACP website offers a wealth of resources spanning aspects of our career, and I encourage you to explore all that is available.

Advocacy & Current Events

- ACP continues to engage with current events and policy discussions affecting healthcare. For example, a Feb 7 statement in the ACP Advocate Newsletter reaffirms the College's commitment to equity, compassion, inclusion, and justice in patient care and physician advocacy.

<https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/acp-advocate/archive/february-7-2025/acp-responds-to-recent-executive-orders-and-their-effects-on-health-care>

Education & Clinical Updates

- ACP Hospitalist – This weekly online magazine covers the latest in hospital medicine, including expert Q&As, case discussions, and evidence-based practice updates. A recent article on PE treatment explores evolving anticoagulation strategies. <https://acphospitalist.acponline.org/archives/2025/01/29/thinking-harder-about-heparin.htm>
- Annals for Hospitalists – A dedicated section in Annals of Internal Medicine featuring high-impact studies and clinical summaries. Notably, the Hyperglycemia in Hospitalized Patients article offers 1.5 free CME credits and key insights on inpatient glycemic management. <https://www.acponline.org/cme-moc/online-learning-center/management-of-hyperglycemia-in-hospitalized-patients>
- ACP Online Learning Center – A centralized resource offering hundreds of free or discounted CME and MOC activities, searchable by topic and format. <https://www.acponline.org/cme-moc/online-learning-center>

Physician Well-being & Financial Health

- ACP Physician Peer Coaching – ACP offers coaching opportunities for physicians at any career stage. Members can choose individual or group coaching sessions, or even pursue training to become a coach themselves. [ACP Physician Peer Coaching | ACP Online](#)
- Financial Tools Hub – This resource provides guidance on financial planning for all phases of professional life, from medical students to retirees. Topics include job contract reviews, tax strategies, student loan management, retirement planning, and more. <https://www.acponline.org/practice-career/physician-well-being-and-professional-fulfillment/financial-well-being-program>

We are in the thick of COVID, influenza, norovirus, and other seasonal illnesses, making this an especially demanding time for hospitalists. I hope these ACP resources help ease some of our challenges and strengthen our connection to each other as we navigate this busy season.

As always, I'm honored to be part of ACP and look forward to sharing more with you soon!

Upcoming SD ACP Events

March 4	6 PM (Central) Council Zoom Meeting
April 2-5	BOG & IM Meeting, New Orleans
April 28-29	Leadership Day - Washington, DC
September 1920	BOG - Phoenix
October 2-3	SD ACP Annual Meeting - Keystone
October 3	Council Meeting 11:45 am -Keystone

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mamoon Ahmed
Robert Allison
Jacob Devine
Kelly Evans-Hullinger
Jennifer Hsu
Randall Lamfers
Eric Larson, Governor
Cathy Leadabrand

David Melanson
Anna Myrmoe
Tim Ridgway
Mahum Shahid
Dawood Shehzad
Nick Thelen
Mike Wilde
Jennifer Williamson

Membership Committee

Jennifer Williamson, MBBS FACP
jennifer.williamson@gmail.com



MEMBERS MINGLE

The recent defeat of the SB 102 should still be fresh in the minds of most if not all of us. While the details of the bill are not the focal point of this article, the question we are left with is: "how did we get to this point?"

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/25971/277363>

We are likely all familiar with the concept of the Swiss Cheese Effect derived from the Swiss Cheese Model propounded by James T. Reason. This model has been used to explain the occurrence of system failures due to the alignment of multiple "holes of error"

I will not pretend to know all the "holes of error" that lead up to the defeat of the bill. I will however propose that our presence or lack thereof could be a contributing factor. As physicians, our schedules are tightly slotted with clinical and non clinical demands. This leaves little time for much else.

While we have been thus tightly tied up, our clinical associates have "stolen a march" on us. Our legislators are not clinicians so they are largely unaware of what we do and the training required to do what we do. It's up to us to engage them as well as the larger communities that we serve. I would like to propose that we mingle. Let's have quarterly meetings via Zoom and invite a different district legislator each time.

Let's invite them to our annual meetings like we did in the past. Let's have them as regular guests on platforms such as Prairie Doc.



Early Career Physicians Committee

Daryl Goh, MD
drdarylgoh@gmail.com

On January 11, 2025, the West River Early Career Physician ACP Chapter hosted a focused discussion for early-career physicians on a critical and timely topic: 2023 Coding Changes and Their Impact on Clinical Documentation. This event provided valuable insights into navigating the evolving coding landscape, emphasizing practical approaches to ensure compliance, efficiency, and high-quality patient care.

Highlights from the Event

1. Overview of the 2023 Coding Updates

- Changes to Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes.
- Updates to documentation requirements, particularly for inpatient and outpatient settings.
- Simplified coding based on medical decision-making (MDM) or total time, eliminating redundancy in documentation.

2. Documentation Best Practices

Participants were introduced to strategies for efficient documentation, including:

- Streamlining workflows with templates while maintaining personalized patient care.
- Avoiding over-documentation and ensuring focus on clinically relevant details.
- Incorporating tools and resources, such as EHR optimizations, to stay compliant with new guidelines.

3. Impact on Early-Career Physicians

The discussion highlighted the unique challenges faced by early-career physicians, such as:

- Balancing coding accuracy with clinical responsibilities.
- Understanding payer-specific nuances in coding audits.
- Addressing coding disparities in multi-specialty practices.

Key Takeaways for Practice

- Know the Code Changes: Familiarize yourself with the 2023 E/M coding updates to avoid billing errors.
- Focus on MDM or Time: Simplify your documentation by centering it around medical decision-making or time spent on patient care.
- Educate Yourself: Attend regular workshops or collaborate with your coding team to stay updated on evolving policies.

Feedback from Attendees

“This session was a game-changer for me! Understanding how to document efficiently without losing the personal touch in patient care has made me more confident in my daily practice.” — Dr. Thomas Brockhoft Hospitalist

“Coding and documentation can feel overwhelming, but breaking it down into manageable steps made it approachable.” — Dr. Eric Chow Hospitalist

This event exemplified the West River Early Career Physician ACP Chapter’s commitment to empowering early-career physicians with the tools needed to navigate the evolving healthcare landscape. As coding and documentation continue to evolve, mastering these skills will be essential for optimizing both patient care and practice efficiency.

