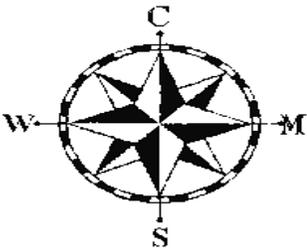


Westmoreland County Medical Society

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

FOURTH QUARTER 2015



Bulletin

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WESTMORELAND, INC.

CASA is the recipient of the 2015 WCMS/WCMSA Holiday Sharing Card.

Imagine what it would be like to be a child, having to leave your home and your family suddenly, not because of something you did, but because your parents can't, or won't take care of you. Into the lives of these children come dozens of strangers: case workers, foster parents, police officers, therapists, lawyers, judges, and many more. Hopefully one of these strangers is a CASA volunteer.

CASA of Westmoreland, Inc., is a volunteer-based organization providing a voice in the courts on behalf of abused and neglected children in Westmoreland County. The recommendations of these volunteers assist the courts in determining the child's placement in safe, permanent and nurturing homes.



The children served by CASA of Westmoreland, Inc. are those who have been victims of abuse and/or neglect by their parents. These children are the most vulnerable members of our community. CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are trained volunteers who research the best interests of children involved in Family Court proceedings. CASAs talk to children, parents, family members, case workers, and other individuals who are involved in the child's life. The CASAs ensure that each child's voice is heard and they submit reports to the court that include recommendations reflecting each child's needs and help to ensure that each child's needs are met while awaiting permanent placement.

CASA volunteers come from a variety of professional, educational, and cultural backgrounds. No special legal or human services background is required. All of the volunteers are caring, dedicated individuals willing to advocate passionately on behalf of some of the area's most vulnerable children.

When a person decides that CASA is a fit for them they fill out a two-part

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Westmoreland County Medical Society



The County Medical Society office can be reached at (724) 837-5050

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OBITUARY: WILLIAM B. SHOPE, M.D.



William Benner Shope, M.D., 92, of Greensburg, died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015. He was born in Greensburg, March 30, 1923, the son of the late James Paul and Emma Wilson Shope. He was a pediatrician for more than 30 years in the Greensburg area. Following his graduation from Greensburg High School, he received his undergraduate degree from Juniata College in Huntingdon and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Shope was a Korean War veteran, having served from October 1950 until June 1951. As a naval officer on loan to the 8th Army, he was a triage physician on the front lines. Dr. Shope was a former member of First United Methodist Church of Greensburg, was the Greensburg Salem school physician from 1955 until 1988, a member of the Greensburg VFW and in his later years attended the RODEO (Retired Old Doctors Eating Out) weekly breakfasts and the Tuesday morning group at St. Mathias Lutheran Church. Thanks to both groups for their cheer and friendship. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Amy Vaughan; and a sister, Lois S. Bair. Dr. Shope is survived by five sons, Edward H. Kimmel and his wife, Karen, James Paul Shope, William B. Shope and Robert D. Shope and his wife, Diane, all of Greensburg, and Timothy M. Kimmel and his wife, Kim, of Washington, Pa.; a daughter, Rebecca J. Kimmel, of Greensburg; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Sally Greenwood.

OBITUARY—JOHN M. ABER, M.D.

John M. Aber, M.D., of Greensburg, died Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015, at his home. He was born Jan. 8, 1942, in Munhall, the son of the late John and Sophie Zacour Aber. John graduated from Munhall High School class of 1959 and from Duquesne University Pharmacy School class of 1963 and Hannemann Medical College and Hospital class of 1967. He served his internship at Hamot Hospital in Erie. John is survived by his loving wife, Judy Aber; son, John A. (Nancy) Aber; daughter, Staci (Karlton) Creech; his two grandchildren, Blake and John Ferree; and a sister, Cherie (John) Drotar. John was a very well-respected family practice doctor and helped and touched many people's lives. His greatest joy and hobby was the game of golf. He loved to play golf with family and friends. He was devoted to the game so much that he gave much time and efforts to the United States Golf Association and the Tri State PGA. Through his love of golf, he met and spent much time with his friends and met many wonderful people. "Doc" as he was known, will be missed deeply by his family and wonderful friends.



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As the endorsed health insurance administrator of the Westmoreland County Medical Society, our goal is to be your helpful partner in making important insurance decisions such as:

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UPCOMING MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 2015	JANUARY 2016	FEBRUARY 2016
George R. Hunter, MD	Jennifer L. Sepp, DO	Thomas E. Lace, MD
Peter T. Stevenson, MD	Randi Brooke Turkewitz, MD	Yahya A. Fadi, MD
Michele M. Belak, MD	Donald L. Kettering, MD	Simran Khurana, MD
Susan D. Bursch, DO	H. King Hartman, Sr., MD	Matthew A. D'Onofrio, MD
Eric F. Campbell, MD	Lauren E. Trimeloni, MD	E. Derek Peske, MD
Barbara K. Wang, MD	Harold E. Gordon, MD	Mary M. Haus, MD
Arthur T. Androkites, MD	Krishna G. Gupta, MD	Samuel W. Flannagan, MD
Ali J. Aboosi, MD	Beth A. Maxwell, MD	Michael W. Semelka, DO
Dawn M. Santora, MD	John M. Aber, MD	Michael G. Weinberg, MD
Rupam Sharan, MD	Valentyna D. Ivanova, MD	Ronald J. Clearfield, MD
Sannasie Chandrasekaran, MD	Mark C. Gottron, DO	Gregg L. Goldstrohm, MD
Daniel S. Contrafatto, MD	Gutti P. Rao, MD	Manjusha Kad, MD
Mamdouh F. El-Attrache, MD	Nutan S. Shah, MD	James Douglas Mills, MD
Jose Luis Meja, MD	David A. Kenney, MD	Jennifer A. Douglas, MD
Danielle Alexis Roe, MD	Herman L. Klieger, MD	Steven W. Selip, MD
Gregory R. Lauro, MD	Adnan K. Nassur, MD	Joseph S. Moss, MD
Katherine L. Patterson Neely, MD	Donald R. Schowalter, MD	Tracy L. C. Popey, MD
Maliha Zahid, MD	Mark R. Klingensmith, MD	Donald J. Jakubek, MD
Frank R. Santamaria, MD	Adib H. Barsoum, MD	Roy R. Clark, MD
Mohammed N. Shaikh, MD	Ahmed Jahangeer, MD	David O. Steffensen, MD
Gowri Arulanantham, MD	Donald D. Yoon, MD	R. Christopher Monsour, MD
Nicole Bosley Bednarski, MD	Dilip S. Kar, MD	Jamal M. Aljari, MD
Rachel Ann Shipley, MD	Walid A. Kassir, MD	Ronald A. Monack, DO
Joseph P. Gerger, MD	Brian F. Boyle, MD	Keith J. Szekely, MD
Kim R. Avolio, DO	Mathew R. Cole, DO	Kenneth J. Szekely, MD
Howard C. Bursch, Jr., DO	Nikhil Ramesh Hirji Asher, MD	
Raymond F. Nino, MD	Christina S. Armanious, DO	
Anthony J. Van Norman, MD	Khaldon Al-Saadi, MD	
Elizabeth Anna Clemens, MD	Stephen John Wynert, MD	
	Ashish Sharma, MD	
	Thomas N. Kaminski, MD	
	David S. Richards, MD	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

(Continued from page 1)

application, participate in an interview with a member of the CASA staff, and begin the process for acquiring clearances and references. Visit the CASA website, or contact the CASA office if you would like an application to start the volunteer process.

Following the interview, the potential volunteers will go through 30 hours of training over a ten week period plus have two hours of court observation. This training helps prepare volunteers for their role as a CASA. The next training class will begin in **March 2016**. Throughout their time on a case, the CASA volunteers utilize the CASA staff for supervision, feedback, and guidance. The CASA staff review all court reports prepared by the CASA and assist the volunteer in establishing a case plan.

Every year there are approximately 350 children in the foster care system due to abuse and/or neglect in Westmoreland County alone. It is imperative that CASA of Westmoreland, Inc. continues to provide advocacy to abused and neglected children. When these children are taken into the system, they can find themselves in an environment where they are surrounded by strangers. They need a person who comes and tells them they are here for them as their personal CASA.

To learn more about CASA and to download a volunteer application, visit our website at www.westmorelandcasa.org, or you can contact the CASA office at 724-850-6874.

Pennsylvania Physician Andrew Gurman Announced as AMA's New President-elect

CHICAGO – The American Medical Association (AMA) today announced the election of Andrew W. Gurman, M.D., an orthopaedic hand surgeon from Hollidaysburg, Pa., as the new president-elect of the nation's largest and most influential physician organization. Following his year-long term as president-elect, Dr. Gurman will assume the office of AMA president in June 2016.

“It is a deep honor and privilege to be named president-elect of an organization that is committed to helping the medical profession and the patients we serve,” said Dr. Gurman. “Challenging times remain for the health care system and as AMA president-elect; I pledge to serve as a strong voice for American physicians as we work with others to solve challenges to providing the best medical care in the world to all, while preserving our sacred relationship with patients.”

During the last eight years, Dr. Gurman has served as the speaker and vice speaker of the House of Delegates, the AMA's primary policy-making body, and has been an active member of the AMA Board of Trustees. He has served as board liaison to the AMA Foundation and worked to align the activities of the Foundation with the mission of the AMA.

Dr. Gurman has represented the AMA at the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, an influential leader in enhancing health care quality; and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Stakeholders Group on Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing, a group dedicated to preventing inappropriate prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.

Dr. Gurman has a distinguished record of service and leadership in organized medicine. He has represented Pennsylvania physicians in the AMA House of Delegates for nearly two decades. He is a former speaker and vice speaker of the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates and he twice served as chair of the Pennsylvania Medical Society Political Action Committee.

A native of New York City, Dr. Gurman grew up in Mount Vernon, N.Y. He attended Syracuse University and received his medical degree from the State University of New York Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, in 1980. He completed a surgical internship and residency in orthopaedic surgery at the combined Montefiore Hospital/Albert Einstein program in New York City, and a fellowship in hand surgery at the Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopaedic Institute, also in New York City.

Dr. Gurman is in private practice in Altoona, Pa., where he and his wife Nancy have resided for 28 years. They have two adult daughters.

Pennsylvania Physicians Have Access to Free Child Abuse CME That Meets State Licensure Requirements

Pennsylvania physicians now have access to free child abuse CME that meets the state's licensure requirements.

Under the amended Child Protective Services Law (CPSL), all physicians must complete approved training on child abuse recognition and reporting as a condition of licensure.

- **Initial license** – Physicians must complete three hours of approved training to obtain an initial license to practice in Pennsylvania.
- **License renewal** – Physicians must obtain two hours of approved training each cycle to renew their license.

To take the course, go to <http://www.pamedsoc.org/DocumentVault/Take-CME/AbsuseDomestic-Violence/Recognition-and-Reporting-of-Child-Abuse.html>

This CME activity, developed by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) and approved by the state Department of Human Services to meet licensure requirements, includes three parts:

Part 1 – Online interactive training that provides an overview of child abuse reporting in Pennsylvania and related matters, including:

- What is child abuse
- Who must report child abuse
- When a report must be made
- How to make a report
- Investigation of reports
- Protections given to reporters, and
- Penalties for failing to make a mandated report

Part 2 - Online interactive training during which you will:

- Review the signs and symptoms of child abuse, and
- Learn through interactive case studies

Part 3 – Written material from PAMED's child abuse *Quick Consult series* that provides more in-depth understanding of the topics covered in this webinar

Physicians who complete Parts 1 and 2 and pass an assessment will receive two hours of CME/ approved training. This is required for license renewal. If applying for an initial license, you must also complete Part 3 to obtain an additional hour of CME/ approved training.

PAMED's has a suite of resources to help physicians and physician practices understand their responsibilities under the CPSL.

PAMED members who have questions on the reporting requirements can contact PAMED's Practice Support Team at (717) DOC-HELP, that's (717) 362-4357.

WESTMORELAND DRUG TASK FORCE

by Susan Shropp, R. Ph.

The Westmoreland Drug Task Force was established in 2013. The group consists of members from many organizations including education, legislative, recovery, criminal justice and healthcare. The main objective of the group is to decrease overdose deaths in the county which have reached pandemic levels. We are pleased to keep you up to date through your association's newsletter.

Today we would like to discuss the new Good Samaritan Law and Act 139 in Pennsylvania. These acts allow access to naloxone to both first responders and family members and friends. We encourage you to offer naloxone prescriptions to any opioid patient or family member you may have. The overdose patient is not always your heroin addict, but can be a senior patient who forgets and takes too much or anyone who may not metabolize the drugs properly.

Many physicians have expressed concerns over liability in prescribing naloxone. Remember, the liability is probably greater by not offering naloxone to a long term chronic pain patient.

For more information, please visit getinwestmoreland.org and look for more information in future newsletters. Thank you.

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR MCARE REFUND NOTICE LETTER? IF NOT, HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

On Nov. 16, 2015, Mcare mailed to physicians and medical practices notice letters with information about assessment refunds for their Mcare coverage. The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) has received some reports from physicians that they did not receive a notice letter. If you did not receive an expected notice letter, here are some steps that you can take.

1. **Verify that you are eligible to receive a refund** – If you paid an Mcare assessment (or an assessment was paid for you) for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2014, refunds will be made for your coverage and you would have been mailed a notice letter. Medical practices also would have been mailed a notice letter if they paid an assessment for Mcare coverage in any of those years.
2. **Check your demographic address on file with your licensing board** – Mcare mailed the notice letters to physicians at the *demographic* address on file with the applicable professional licensing board in the Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Notice letters to medical practices were mailed to their address on file with the Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau.
 - PAMED's website – www.McareRefund.org – has instructions on how you can check and update your address with the State Board of Medicine or the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - Note that the physician licensing board online license system includes two address fields: *license* address and *demographic* address.
 - The license address is the address where the board mails you your license.
 - The demographic address field usually contains the same information as the license field. However, some physicians choose to provide a second address in this field.
3. **Make sure your “suite address” is listed before your “street address”** – The U.S. Postal Service mail processing system reads addresses from the zip code backwards (zip, state, city, street, suite/apt, name). If these elements are out of order (e.g. zip, state, city, suite, street, name), the mail may be returned to sender. Mcare is reviewing returned refund notices and resending the notice letters to the extent that it is able to fix formatting problems.
4. **Check with your current employer** – PAMED has been apprised that administrators at some physician practice sites were under the misimpression that employers could take possession of notice letters for their employed physicians. However, notice letters include confidential information and are the property of the physician to whom they are addressed. Notice letters should not be intercepted without the physician's authorization.
5. **Check with a former employer/practice** – If your demographic address with your licensing board was not up-to-date, your notice letter may have been sent to your listed address with a former employer/practice. If the employer/practice made a claim on any refunds, it is obligated to forward refund notices to a physician's new address if the employer/practice is aware of the new address.
6. **Contact Mcare** – If you are unable to locate your notice letter, you can contact the Mcare Refund Service Center at (717) 231-6400 (8 AM – 5 PM Monday – Friday, excluding holidays) or email the Service Center at ra-in-McareRefundCtr@pa.gov.