



THE FORUM

July/August 2014 • Volume 13, No. 4 • The Official Magazine of the Collier County Medical Society

2013-2014 Annual Reports

CCMS, Foundation, & Alliance



Collier County Medical Society Alliance

In this issue:

CCMS Circle of Friends Spotlight
The Cashflow Remedy
Member Event Photos
BMI Survey Report

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, register at
www.ccmsonline.org or call (239) 435-7727

Thursday, July 10, 5:30pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Avenue5

July 25-July 27
FMA Annual Meeting
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
celebratemedicine.com

Thursday, July 29, 5:30pm
CCMS After 5 Social
The Bay House

Sunday, August 17, 11:00am
CCMS Alliance Annual End of Summer Pool Party
Waldorf Astoria Pool
ccmsalliance.info

Thursday, September 11, 6:00pm
CCMS Fall General Membership Meeting
Hilton Naples
Sponsor/exhibit opportunities available, call 435-7727

Tuesday, September 16, 5:30pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Shula's Steak House

Thursday, September 18, 5:30pm
CCMS & Moorings Park Geriatrics Lecture Series
Moorings Park

Sunday, September 21, 1:00pm
CCMS & Foundation Miami Dolphins Football Outing
1:00pm pick up in Naples, 4:25 game time
\$80/ticket, open to CCMS & Circle of Friends members
and their guests

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, October 2
CCMS After 5 Social

Saturday, October 18
PLAN Fundraiser
www.plancc.org/events

Wednesday, November 5
CCMS & Moorings Park Geriatrics Lecture Series

Friday, November 14
CCMS New Members Welcome Reception

Thursday, November 20
GI Symposium

MEMBER NEWS

New private practices:

Rebekah Bernard, M.D.

Estero Urgent Care
9250 Corkscrew Rd #18
Estero, FL 33928
Phone: (239) 948-3867
Fax: (239) 948-3736

Aleksandra Granath M.D., Ph.D., CCD

Naples Rheumatology, PLLC
400 8th St N
Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 430-5522
Fax: (239) 430-5523

New office location:

Gilbert Maulsby, M.D. and Adam Olmsted, M.D.

1020 Crosspointe Dr, Ste 103
Naples, FL 34110
Phone: (239) 598-0035
Fax: (239) 598-0038

CCMS Board of Directors 2014-2015

President

Mitchell Zeitler, M.D.

Vice President
Eric Hochman, M.D.

Secretary
Catherine Kowal, M.D.

Treasurer
Rafael Haciski, M.D.

Officer/Director at Large
Cesar De Leon, D.O.

Directors at Large: Paul Dorio, M.D., Eric Eskioglu, M.D.
Ex Officio Directors: Michelle Fuchs, CCMS Alliance President,
April Donahue, Executive Director, CCMS

Views and opinions expressed in *The Forum* are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Collier County Medical Society's Board of Directors, staff or advertisers. Copy deadline for editorial and advertising submission is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The editorial staff of *The Forum* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

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A Message from the President

We want to hear from you, the members

Mitchell Zeitler, M.D., 2014-15 President, Collier County Medical Society



Our Medical Society is here to represent all physicians in the county and provide member benefits that help you, your practice, and your patients. From small independent practitioners, to large group employed physicians, and across all specialties, we are looking at the distinct services we can provide to multiple practice-types.

In our mission to promote quality healthcare for all patients and serve the professional needs of our members, CCMS provides member benefits such as educational events, including clinical topics and practice/wealth management; networking opportunities; referrals via our print directory, online directory, and calls to the CCMS office; discounts through the Circle of Friends program; and free professional accounts with CE Broker. At time of writing this, we are also nearing completion of the early phases of adding a co-op health insurance program for member practices.

Additionally, CCMS advocates for our members and their patients on policy issues in the public arena and with state and national organized medicine. We are fortunate to have two reference committee chairs at this summer's FMA Annual Meeting – Dr. Rafael Haciski and Dr. James Talano – as well as two additional reference committee member appointments. Reference committees provide a critical function at the House of Delegates, to filter through the many resolutions submitted to the House.

We are also looking for more ways to be of assistance. Be on the lookout for a member survey to come this summer, so you can share your thoughts on how we are performing for you. And as always, if you have a question on any practice-related issue, you can call or email the CCMS office. If we do not know the answer, we will find someone who does. If you have a suggestion for services and programs that CCMS could implement to help you more, contact us. We also invite members to submit information to this magazine, such as articles, guest editorials, and feedback in the form of letters or emails. You can also let us know if you are interested in providing lectures at CCMS events or to the public.

This issue contains our annual reports from the last fiscal year. We have been very active working for our members. Finances are strong. The new Foundation of CCMS, only a year old, is funding scholarships and supporting the local community. CCMS membership numbers are looking good. Of course, it could only help us help you to have more members on our roster. We encourage you to refer any non-members who could benefit from membership to CCMS. The annual membership fee, which can often be reimbursed or paid for by a physician's group, is a very sound investment.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact CCMS

April Donahue, Executive Director

Nancy Wood, Administrative Assistant

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Naples, FL 34102

Phone: (239) 435-7727

Fax: (239) 435-7790

Email: info@ccmsonline.org

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Foundation of CCMS 2013 Annual Report

Rolando Rivera, M.D., Foundation Chair



Our Medical Society's 501c3 charitable arm, the Foundation of Collier County Medical Society, had an exciting and successful inaugural year, which was focused primarily on building the necessary means to follow our mission: "provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare, promote health education and serve the community's public health needs."

The board of directors are pleased to report that the Foundation had \$24,014 in total income in 2013. This includes four "Champions" and six "Friends" of the Foundation, who were recognized at the Founding Donors Appreciation Reception, "Putting the Fun in Fundraising" at The Club Pelican Bay on September 14th. At the event, Dr. Catherine Kowal won the Grand prize give-away: Weekend hotel stay for two from the Hyatt Key West, and private air transportation donated by Meridian Business Consultants.

We also had 51 additional donors to the Foundation, primarily from member physicians who contributed \$100 along with their CCMS member dues. The Print Shop announced that they will donate 5% of the revenue of all printing services purchased by CCMS members to the Foundation of CCMS. The CCMS also held a raffle to benefit the Foundation at their New Members Welcome Reception in November. Prizes included Club Tickets to a Miami Dolphins game, a spa weekend at The Breakers Resort with a complimentary Acura rental car, and tickets to the Franklin Templeton Shootout at Tiburon.

Thank you to all of our supporters for your contributions to our successful launch. You can see the current list of donors, which now numbers more than 70, online at www.ccmsfoundation.org, click on "Donor Honor Roll."

During this first year, our expenses were relatively minimal at \$7,587. We provided our first-ever donation to local medical student Jennifer Reppucci for her medical mission to Peru. She reported that "the experience not only helped me appreciate my education and the healthcare we are fortunate to have, but it also gave me an opportunity to interact with a new subset of patients which will help me be a more well-rounded physician." The remainder of our expenses primarily consisted of the items necessary to start the non-profit: legal/licensing, insurance and marketing fees.

We are now halfway through our second year, and have added many more achievements. With the success of our first Docs & Duffers Charity Golf Tournament, the board has decided this will be an annual event. To learn more, visit www.ccmsfoundation.org and stay tuned for specifics on the 2015 tournament. We have awarded two scholarships to local nursing students, and look forward to contributing funds to many more students as the years progress. With CCMS, we have planned a football outing fundraiser to see the Miami Dolphins this September. And, we are looking at ways we can contribute to local programs and services that benefit the community's healthcare needs.

On behalf of the board, thank you, and if you have any questions or suggestions for us, please do not hesitate to contact April at the CCMS office, 435-7727 or april@ccmsonline.org.

Thank you to the 2013-2014 Foundation Board Members:

Rolando Rivera, M.D., Chair
Karen Henrichsen, D.O., Treasurer/Secretary
Peter R. Boyd, M.D.
Reisha Brown, M.D.

Jeremy Darstek
Bob DiPesa
Richard Pagliara, D.O.
April Donahue



COMPLETE FAMILY CARE

Our board-certified radiologists at NDIC are specially trained to complete and read exams for pediatric as well as adult patients. Also at NDIC, we keep all completed exams electronically and have them on hand immediately if a comparison is needed. Each of our 14 radiologists are local and interact with our patients at all 3 locations throughout Naples. We've been serving the Naples community for over 25 years.



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-Ralph R. Garramone, MD, FACS

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CCMS Alliance Annual Report and Preview for 2014-15

Michelle Fuchs, CCMSA President and Kristina Jay, CCMSA Past President



The Collier County Medical Society Alliance (CCMSA) held their Annual Spring Luncheon on May 15th. This annual event is when CCMSA Members come together to celebrate their past year's successes and to congratulate and welcome the new incoming Board and Committee Chairs.

This past year the CCMSA Board was excited to have hosted a variety of successful fundraising events to be able to once again hand out \$10,000 worth of Ethyl Trygstad Scholarships to Collier County High School graduating students who will be pursuing medical careers. In addition, CCMSA was able to contribute \$1,000 to Catholic Charities through donations given to the newly established Judith Wilson Sullivan CCMSAF Gavel Club Award.

From social nights out and family play dates to the many goodwill donations and scholarships granted, the CCMSA celebrates a fun and successful past year! The new CCMSA Board and members look forward to another exciting and successful year to come. They look to continue making strides in increasing the CCMSA membership base, enhancing member support on CCMSA committees, having members utilize the CCMSA website – cccmsalliance.info, gaining more

likes to the CCMSA Facebook Page and being innovative, creative and “green” for next year’s members.

Join CCMSA for their first event of the new season on August 17th, **the CCMSA Annual End of Summer Pool Party** at the Waldorf Astoria Pool. Visit the CCMSA website, cccmsalliance.info, for more information!



Welcome to the new 2014-2015 CCMSA Board & Committee Chair Members:

President – Michelle Fuchs
President Elect – Antonija Bhasin
Alliance Treasurer – Sheryl Guttman
Foundation Treasurer – Marisol Baez
Correspondence Secretary – Jackie Balandra
Recording Secretary – Board Rotation
Past President – Kristina Jay
Parliamentarians – Monique Owens, Ann Anderson
Scholarship Committee – Barbara Rougraff, Chairperson





Collier County Medical Society 2013-2014 Annual Report

VISION

**Helping Physicians Practice High Quality Medicine
in Our Community**

MISSION

**The Collier County Medical Society is an organization
of physicians dedicated to promoting quality healthcare
for all patients and to serving the professional
needs of our members**



CCMS 2013-14 Board of Directors (l-r): Dr. Paul Dorio, Director at Large;
Dr. Eric Hochman, Treasurer; Dr. Richard Pagliara, President; Dr. Rafael Haciski, Secretary;
Dr. Catherine Kowal, Officer/Director at Large (not pictured: Dr. Mitchell Zeitler, Vice President
and Dr. Cesar De Leon, Director at Large)

Presidential Report from Dr. Richard D. Pagliara

Dear Member:

It's been my great pleasure and honor to serve as president of the Collier County Medical Society. This past year has been busy, as we focused on major issues of concern to our members while monitoring the political and business climate. We have provided representation and an extensive range of benefits to support you as a physician and maintain the high standard of medicine in our community.

We have increased our membership and provided 13.25 CME credit hours. We have been involved in many local, state and national issues including Collier EMS Medical Directorship, EMR/HIE, Golden Gate oil drilling, school cellphone tower controversy, scope of practice expansion, SGR repeal, and the UHC Medicare Advantage debacle. We have met with state and U.S. legislators including Rep. Passidomo, Rep. Hudson and Rep. Diaz-Balart. We have and will continue to directly support PLAN and the Foundation of the CCMS. We have welcomed our new Executive Director, April Donahue, who has brought significant expertise to the board and our membership.

My four years serving on the CCMS board have been a very rewarding experience. I developed many professional relationships, gained knowledge in organized medicine, and learned a bit about politics (both the good and the bad). These experiences have helped shape and mature my professional outlook and therefore I would highly recommend that you serve on the CCMS board of directors.

Thank you to our members for your participation and involvement. Thank you to my colleagues from the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, and welcome to Dr. Mitchell Zeitler as the next president of the Collier County Medical Society.

Sincerely,
Richard D. Pagliara, D.O.



Thank You to the 2013-2014 Board of Directors:

President: Richard D. Pagliara, D.O.
Vice President: Mitchell J. Zeitler, M.D.
Treasurer: Eric J. Hochman, M.D.
Secretary: Rafael C. Haciski, M.D.
Officer/Director at Large: Catherine N. Kowal, M.D.
Director at Large: Cesar R. De Leon, D.O.
Director at Large: Paul J. Dorio, M.D.

Ex-Officio

Kristina Jay, CCMS Alliance President
April Donahue, Executive Director

CCMS Annual Highlights

By becoming a member, you support the CCMS mission to “help physicians practice high-quality medicine in our community.” With your membership, our society leads the way on issues that affect you and your patients. This past year’s activities include:

- Hosting and/or facilitating over 13 CME credit hours for CCMS members, addressing a wide variety of topics.
- Seminars on practice management and wealth management issues, such as healthcare legislation, ICD-10, HIPAA & the False Claims Act, tax code changes, and more.
- Helping patients and members resolve misunderstandings and communication difficulties in practice and employment settings.
- Remaining involved in organized medicine at the state and national level to ensure our members’ voices are heard at the FMA and AMA.
- Presenting the Sixth Annual Women’s Health Forum, a public service educating 300 attendees on the latest health trends and medical treatments, featuring CCMS member speakers.
- Completion of a thorough study on EMR and HIE operability in Collier County, to assist members in their EMR decision-making and to highlight medical community needs.
- Continuation of our popular “After 5” social events for our members, to connect with colleagues and meet physicians who are new to our area.
- Representing our members’ interests in policy debates at state and local levels, including issues such as scope of practice, SGR repeal, and the UHC Medicare Advantage physician deselections.

2013-2014 Committees

Thank you to the following members who participated in committees during the last year:

Grievances

Dr. Alan Galbut, Chair
Dr. Paul Dorio
Dr. Richard Pagliara

FMA Delegates

Dr. Cesar De Leon
Dr. Joseph Gauta
Dr. Rafael Haciski
Dr. Corey Howard
(FMA Vice-Speaker and AMA Delegate)
Dr. Catherine Kowal
Dr. James Talano
Dr. Mitchell Zeitler

Health Information Exchange

Dr. Richard Pagliara, Chair
Dr. Cesar De Leon
Dr. Rafael Haciski
Dr. James Talano

Legislative Committee

Dr. Mitchell Zeitler, Chair
Dr. Joseph Gauta
Dr. Richard Pagliara
Dr. James Talano

Nominating

Dr. Rolando Rivera, Chair
Dr. Rafael Haciski
Dr. Karen Henrichsen
Dr. Eric Hochman
Dr. Dennis Hidlebaugh

Programs Committee

Dr. Cesar De Leon, Chair
Dr. Daniel Deutschman
Dr. Ronald Purcell
Dr. Mitchell Zeitler

Women’s Health Forum 2014

Dr. Catherine Kowal, Chair
Dr. Caroline Cederquist
Dr. Rafael Haciski
Dr. Karen Henrichsen
Dr. Jonathan Jay
Dr. Tami Kuhlman
Dr. Jamie Weaver

CCMS Annual Report (cont.)

Income and Expenses

Income, Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2014

Dues \$198,930
Publications \$96,740
Members events \$63,477
Interest \$28
Total Income \$359,175

Expenses, Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2014

Salary/benefits \$202,418
Office expenses \$21,047
Member events \$46,050
Travel and meetings \$13,741
Publications \$34,638
Rent/electric \$15,557
Phone/computer and web \$10,268
Accounting & Professional Services \$7,221
Total Expenses \$350,940

Net income \$8,235

(Compared with -7,453 in 2012-13)

CCMS PAC Report

This fiscal year was a relatively quiet campaigning year and thus a quiet year for the Political Action Committee (PAC). The CCMS and PAC Boards agreed not to request PAC dues on 2014 CCMS membership dues invoices in lieu of donation requests for the new Foundation of CCMS. The PAC account had sufficient funds for the year's contributions.

The PAC board reviewed a variety of candidates for state and local positions. A notable change to state election law allowed contributions greater than \$500. Limits are now \$1,000 or \$3,000, depending on office. CCMS PAC made \$3,500 in candidate contributions and ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$6,625. CCMS members and spouses may donate to the PAC at any time; contact the CCMS office for details.

Funds to support candidates were distributed to:

Tom Lee • Jack Latvala • Joe Negron
Pam Bondi • Jeff Atwater

2013-2014 PAC Board

Dr. Rolando Rivera, Chair/Treasurer;
Dr. Joseph Gauta, Dr. Catherine Kowal,
Dr. Mitchell Zeitler, and April Donahue

Membership

Total Membership 2013-2014: 534

New & Reinstated Members Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Lisa Aenlle-Matusz, M.D.
Jose Baez, M.D.
John Canterbury, M.D.
Robert Chami, M.D.
Renate Chevli, M.D.
Lawrence Dorf, M.D.
Emily Essert, D.O.
Nilusha Fernando, D.O.
Steven Fontana, M.D.
Pedro Garcarena, M.D.
Julieta Gilson, M.D.
Chethana Gottam, M.D.
Scott Haltzman, M.D.
Erik Hiester, D.O.
Karen Hiester, D.O.
Leela Lavasani, M.D.
Bernard Lublin, M.D.
Ricardo Martinez, M.D.
Scott Patterson, D.O.
Sharla Patterson, M.D.
Yaritza Perez-Soto, M.D.
Mohamed Radwan, M.D.
Alexandre Rosen, M.D.
Kathryn Russell, M.D.
Brad Snead, M.D.
Leslie Stapp, D.O.
Benjamin Storey, M.D.
Jessica Sullivan, D.O.
Gary Swain, M.D.
Jorge Valle, M.D.
Tracy Walsh, M.D.
Eric Wilson, M.D.
Andrew Yin, M.D.



This report was prepared by April Donahue, CCMS Executive Director
Collier County Medical Society, 1148 Goodlette Road North, Naples, FL 34102
(239) 435-7727 • fax: (239) 435-7790 • info@ccmsonline.org • www.ccmsonline.org

The Cashflow Remedy

Jeff Neher & Peter Montalbano, CFP®, Capital Guardian Wealth Management



Peter Montalbano, CFP®

Cash flow is a sought after commodity as physicians face increased expenses and the uncertainty of future reimbursements. So is there a way to generate consistent cash flow in an investment portfolio without taking on unnecessary risk?

One idea physicians are considering to add a cash flow component to investment portfolios is selling Covered Calls and Cash Secured Puts.

For many, the concept of Options equates to complex and risky transactions and there certainly are options strategies which fit that bill. However, selling Covered Calls and Cash Secured Puts are conservative methods which provide the potential for market participation and enhanced cash flow.

So, how does it work?

Selling a Covered Call is a type of transaction that immediately deposits cash into one's account (the premium) but offers their 100 shares of stock to be sold at a specific price. These cash premiums can produce much better yields than most dividends and coupon rates.

Selling a Cash Secured Put is another way to achieve a higher cash flow yield (the premium) while staying in cash awaiting the purchase of 100 shares of a stock or an ETF at a lower price from when the option trade was put on.

You can utilize both strategies in a portfolio depending upon market outlooks and the cash flow targets you set out to achieve. Daily monitoring and trading the option contracts on a constant and proactive basis are the keys to successful options trading.

These strategies can be effective, but as with any investment idea it has to align with your risk tolerance, time horizon and liquidity requirements. It is best to consult a seasoned professional and learn as much as you can before embarking on any investment program.

 	
<h2><i>CCMS & Foundation 1st Annual Football Outing Miami Dolphins, September 21, 2014</i></h2>	
<p>When Sunday September 21st 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM Game time 4:25 PM</p> <p>Where Sun Life Stadium via pick-up site: 501 Goodlette Rd N #A100 office of Dr. Cesar De Leon (French Quarter Complex) Naples, FL 34102</p>	<p>We invite CCMS and Circle of Friends members and their guest(s) to join us for the 1st annual CCMS & Foundation football outing, to see the Miami Dolphins take on Kansas City at Sun Life Stadium, Sunday, September 21st.</p> <div><p>Your participation will help support our community's health care needs, as a portion of your ticket price benefits the Foundation of CCMS.</p><p>Take advantage of our special group rate of \$80 each for lower bowl seats. Enjoy complimentary, luxury bus transportation and a day of fun with your CCMS colleagues.</p><p><i>Seats are limited, purchase yours today!</i></p><p>Register Now! Go to www.ccmsonline.org or call 435-7727</p></div>
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Circle of Friends – A Program of Preferred Vendors

CCMS Circle of Friends program is open to businesses that can offer our members benefits and discounts. We encourage you to patronize these businesses that have been selected by CCMS for their outstanding services and products.



Akerman Senterfitt
Contact: Jonathan Gopman, Esq.
Business Type: Legal
239-449-5600 / Fax: 239-449-5658

jonathan.gopman@akerman.com / www.akerman.com

Akerman Senterfitt began in Orlando in 1925 and has grown to 550 attorneys with 19 offices across the country, including an office in Naples. The firm represents a number of physicians and other healthcare providers, and provides legal advice to clients in the areas of tax, estate planning, asset preservation, civil and commercial litigation, and healthcare law. CCMS members receive 10% discount on hourly rates for healthcare, corporate, and business legal work (does not apply to estate planning or litigation).



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Contact: Dennis Leiva

Business Type: Banking
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Capital Guardian Wealth Management
Contact: Peter Montalbano, CFP®

Business Type: Wealth Management
239-919-5900 / Fax: 239-513-1201

pmontalbano@capitalguardianllc.com / www.capitalguardianllc.com

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Clifford Medical Billing Specialists, Inc.
Contact: Lisa Clifford, CPC

Business Type: Medical Billing
239-325-2088 / Fax: 239-325-2089

lisa@cliffordmedicalbilling.com / www.cliffordmedicalbilling.com
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Contact: Joseph Hohmann or Leslie Hohmann
Business Type: Medical Staffing

239-498-5000 / Fax: 239-498-5015

leslie.hohmann@expresspros.com / www.expressrg.com

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Factor Medical Billing
Contact: Melisa Hendricks Factor or Jordan Factor

Business Type: Medical Billing
239-784-4181 / Fax: 239-529-5916

melisa@factormedicalbilling.com / www.factormedicalbilling.com
Factor Medical Billing is a professional medical billing company dedicated to providing outstanding service to physicians. Factor Medical Billing has a simple mission: to collect the maximum reimbursement due and to do so in a timely manner. CCMS members receive 1% off the regular medical billing fees.



First Citizens Bank
Contact: Michelle McLeod

Business Type: Banking

239-659-2800 / Fax: 239-262-0907

Michelle.Mcleod@firstcitizens.com / www.firstcitizens.com

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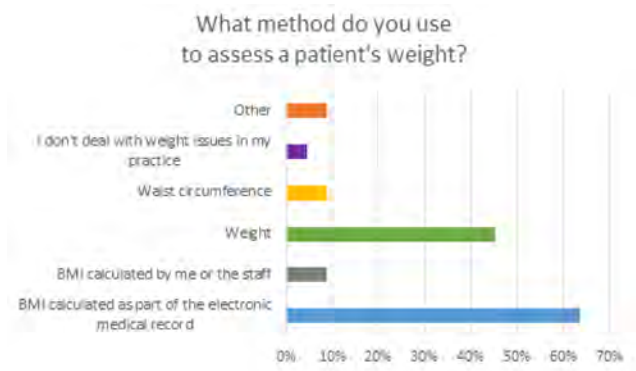
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BMI Survey Report

This year, a group of representatives from healthcare, business, schools, and the community, including representation from Collier County Medical Society, began meeting under the coordination of the Florida Department of Health Collier County to address the overweight and obesity issue in our county. The “Executive Leadership Committee for Community Health Improvement Planning,” as part of this goal, is assessing different ways to make losing weight easier for Collier County residents.

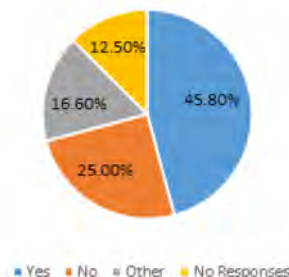


CCMS recently distributed a brief email survey to its members to help the committee determine the extent of medical intervention that exists in our community to help patients address weight issues. The committee will analyze the survey results to provide guidance in future activity. A brief summary of the results follows.

The first of six survey questions inquired about methods for assessing a patient's weight. The majority of responses calculated BMI as part of an electronic medical record, and the next highest percentage of respondents used simple weight calculation.

The next question asked respondents if they have time to counsel overweight or obese patients. Over 50% of respondents answered yes, while 25% answered no. Some respondents commented that they are able to provide basic, but not extensive counseling.

Do you refer patients to other professionals either in or outside of your practice for weight counselling?



In the third question, approximately 45% responded that they refer patients to other professionals for weight counseling. Some of the respondents had nutritionists and/or therapists on staff. One respondent commented that they make referrals typically based on patient interest.

Are you able to find time to counsel those patients who are obese or overweight?



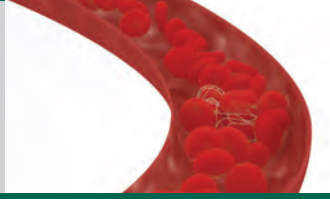
The fourth question was open-ended: “What barriers have you encountered when discussing BMI and weight related issues with patients?” Most respondents indicated that the lack of reimbursement by third party payors for time spent counselling patients and patient reluctance/inability to pay are barriers. Others mentioned cultural habits and physical limitations, for example with some elderly patients.

The fifth question was also open-ended: “What do you think would make it easier for people to lose weight or even just maintain a healthy weight?” The responses varied from social and cultural changes, patient habits and education, to medical practice-based adjustments. Changes that could be made at the practice level included educating staff and employing a team approach. Healthcare industry changes such as reimbursement for time spent on weight counseling were also noted.

The final question asked respondents if they would be interested in attending a CME event on weight measures and counselling techniques for physicians. The majority of respondents (58.3%) answered yes. Some respondents also commented with suggestions, including speakers, a multi-disciplinary panel format, and to discuss connections not commonly recognized between BMI and other health issues.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the survey.

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