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News and Views

May 2019

HOME
CONTACT US
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FACEBOOK
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IN THIS ISSUE

[Survey Identifies Barriers and Solutions to Biosimilar Adoption](#)
[In Memoriam: Past President Cathy Carroll](#)
[CEO Blog: PAs Play Key Role in Appropriate Medication Use](#)
[PGY1 Residents First to Rotate at AMCP/Foundation Headquarters](#)
[Thank You Volunteers at AMCP Annual Meeting 2019](#)
[Principles for Sound P&T Practices: What's Next?](#)
[Committee Profile: LRAC](#)
[Specialty Connect: Focus on Gene Therapy, Coming to AMCP Learn!](#)
[Latest from AMCP eDossier System @FormularyDecisions.com](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

Practice Essentials for Psoriatic Arthritis Treatment: Thursday, May 9, 2pm EDT
[AMCP Members and Non-Members - Free](#)
Medical and Pharmacy Data Integration: Tuesday, May 14, 2pm EDT
[AMCP Members and Non-Members - Free](#)



Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy Professionals Identify Barriers and Solutions to Biosimilar Adoption

The landmark Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA) of 2009 created an FDA approval pathway for biosimilars that aimed to expanded patient access to these more affordable therapies. But formidable barriers, including concerns about safety and efficacy among prescribers, as well as state laws on substitution and interchangeability, have hindered biosimilar adoption. A new survey conducted by AMCP and PRIME Education assesses various strategies that managed care and specialty pharmacy professionals could adopt to overcome such barriers and boost biosimilar utilization. The results were recently published in AMCP's *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*. [Read more](#)

In Memoriam: Past President Cathy Carroll



It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of AMCP Past President Cathy Carroll. Cathy was a beloved, long-time member and leader of AMCP. She served as AMCP President from 2008 to 2009, during the tenure of AMCP CEO Judy Cahill. Cathy's warmth and good humor came through in her April 2008 inaugural address at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, in which she compared the children's book "Horton Hears A Who" to the past and future successes of AMCP. [Read more](#)



CEO Blog: PAs Play Key Role in Appropriate Medication Use

By CEO Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE: Prior authorization (PA) is a crucial but often-understood utilization management tool in the pharmacy benefit space. The bad rap that PAs have received recently, I believe, comes from either misinformation about the process or glitches in specific systems that can easily be corrected. AMCP represents thousands of pharmacists and other health care professionals who design and implement pharmacy benefits for millions of Americans. PA is an essential part the equation. [Read more](#)



PGY1 Residents First to Rotate at Foundation Headquarters

The AMCP Foundation recently welcomed two pharmacist residents, Jared Tate and Emily Tsiao, for a one-month rotation through the Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) Managed Care Residency at Premera Blue Cross in Seattle, Wash. Both residents served as founding presidents of their respective AMCP student chapters. The new rotation takes place at AMCP/Foundation headquarters in Alexandria, Va. Pharmacists who complete 12-month PGY1 managed care residencies gain clinical and leadership skills at the host health plan and a variety of rotation sites, while developing a longitudinal project. [Read more](#)

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Thank You! Volunteers Helped Make AMCP



Annual Meeting 2019 a Huge Success

AMCP would like to thank the many, *many* volunteers who generously gave of their time and expertise at the recent AMCP Annual Meeting 2019 in San Diego. As you know, volunteering is a great way to give back to our organization, and make new friends and connections. Click the following links to see names of members who helped make a difference: [AMCP Foundation Best Poster Judges & Mentors](#); [Conference Buddy Mentors](#); [Booth Volunteers](#); and [Session Moderators](#)



Principles for Sound Pharmacy and Therapeutics Practices: What's Next?

Nearly 20 years have passed since AMCP and other stakeholders adopted the [Principles for a Sound Formulary System](#). Since that time, requirements for pharmacy and therapeutics committees (P&T) have been adopted by the Medicare Part D program, health insurance marketplace plans, commercial health plans, Medicaid programs and other public payers. Changes and evolution in health care suggest the need for updated recommendations from a broad group of stakeholders. [Read more](#)



Committee Profile: Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee (LRAC)

The mission of LRAC is to effectively advocate AMCP's positions on a wide range of current and anticipated state and federal legislative and regulatory issues. *AMCP News&Views* caught up with committee chair **Nisreen Shamseddine** to get her perspective on what the group aims to accomplish this year. ***N&Vs: What are the most pressing issues before the committee?*** There are several issues that the committee is watching closely. I would say the most pressing would be proposed legislation that aims to limit the scope of managed care practice. Our members work diligently every day to properly manage patients in a cost-effective manner. In order to continue doing so, our managed care tools need to be preserved. [Read more](#)

Student Pharmacists from University of Maryland Visit AMCP Headquarters



Student pharmacists from the AMCP Student Chapter at the University of Maryland visited AMCP headquarters in Alexandria last month. Members of the group said they were impressed with what managed care signifies in the context of health care, along with the numerous programs AMCP has created to disseminate knowledge about important trends within managed care. They also came away energized with how student pharmacists can make an impact by upholding the values of AMCP. After the visit, one noted, “AMCP works endlessly to provide resources for its thousands of members, and being so geographically close to the headquarters, we hope to maintain our relationship with them for the years to come!” [Read more about AMCP student pharmacist opportunities.](#)



Specialty Connect: Focus on Gene Therapy - Coming Soon to AMCP Learn

Gene therapy has the potential to improve the health of millions of patients. Specialty Connect: Focus on Gene Therapy, held in San Diego on March 25, presented experts discussing many aspects of this promising field, including the science behind gene therapy, payer considerations for supporting patient access to gene therapy and current research efforts. The enduring program, to be posted soon on [AMCP Learn](#), is comprised of: Introduction to Gene Therapy: Key Terms, Concepts, and the International Perspective; Developments, Research, Pipeline, and Applications of Gene Therapy; Financial Models to Manage Drug Spend of Gene Therapy; Perspectives in Gene Therapy Management: Panel Discussion You can also purchase the complete set. Visit [AMCP Learn](#) today!



Tuition Discount on UFlorida Degree in Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy

AMCP members can gain a competitive advantage through the University of Florida's [online graduate program](#) in pharmaceutical outcomes & policy. Members are eligible for a tuition discount of up to \$2,250 with the new [UF educational partnership](#). Choose from 4 specialty tracks: (1) Applied Pharmacoeconomics, (2) Managed Care Pharmacy Systems, (3) Patient Safety in Medication Use, (4) Pharmaceutical Regulation. The program offers three degree options to enhance your career: M.S., M.S. + M.B.A, and Certificate. To learn more, register for our [informational webinar](#) on June 26, from 12pm–1pm, EST. [Video on program](#).



Manufacturers supporting Payers with pre-approval reviews via AMCP eDossier System @FormularyDecisions.com

Payers and health care decision makers (HCDMs) are conducting product reviews earlier and have indicated the challenge to find pre-approval information. FormularyDecisions.com (home to the AMCP eDossier System), provides opportunities for HCDMs to access pre-approval information both from publicly available and platform generated resources. At the AMCP Annual Meeting in San Diego, HCDM focus groups, organized by Dymaxium and AMCP, identified manufacturers as a resource to support their pre-approval product reviews. Manufacturers can support HCDMs via the AMCP eDossier System @FormularyDecisions.com including: NEW AMCP Pre-approval Information Exchange (PIE) Webinars – webinars directly within the System, P&T Prep Kits (manufacturers can collaborate in the content preparation, email: [Interested manufacturers](mailto:Interested_manufacturers)), highlighted resources in the Manufacturer Resource Center, (directly on product page) or pre-approval dossiers. For more information on supporting HCDMs pre-approval, visit information@formularydecisions.com.

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