

# Medical Society

NEWSLETTER



**FEBRUARY 2018**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

National Wear Red Day  
February 2, 2018

The Regulations for  
Collaborating with PAs  
Have Changed

### PAGE 3

What Documents Should  
You Collect When Hiring  
APRNs or PAs?

### PAGE 4

What New Laws Pertaining  
to Medicine Kicked in on  
January 1?

### PAGE 5

February is American  
Heart Month

### PAGE 6

Important Items to Consider  
When Creating a Student  
Loan Repayment Strategy

### PAGE 7

In Memory of Physician,  
Diane A. Megahy, M.D.

In Memory of Physician,  
Gregorio Sierra, M.D.

FEBRUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

## ISMS Annual Meeting and House of Delegates

The 2017 Annual House of Delegates meeting will take place Friday April 21 – Sunday April 23 2017 at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center 3500 Midwest Road Oak Brook, Illinois for hotel information and reservations go to [www.isms.org](http://www.isms.org).

SCCMS and MCMS invite members to submit resolutions. Take advantage of the opportunity to voice your concerns and hopes by proposing a resolution(s) to ISMS. Your efforts make a difference.

Any member may author a resolution, but, it must be submitted by a delegate. For guidance in developing a resolution please contact the society office or a county society delegate.

Resolutions can be sent to the society office via e-mail at [stclairmed96@gmail.com](mailto:stclairmed96@gmail.com) or by mail to 6400 West Main Street Suite 3-L Belleville, IL. 62223. Resolutions must be submitted to ISMS before Tuesday March 7, 2017.

SCCMS, MCMS, ISMS and the AMA are democratic entities. The activities of all four organizations are directed by policies that begin as individual members' ideas. These ideas, when presented as resolutions, are reviewed and acted upon by the policy-making bodies of each association in much the same way as Congress considers legislation.

**HOD Questions? Contact [hod@isms.org](mailto:hod@isms.org) or call 312.853.4745 or 800.782.4767 ext. 4745.**

# National Wear Red Day February 2, 2018

## National Wear Red Day takes place on February 02, 2018.

National Wear Red Day is a day in February when many people wear red to show their support for the awareness of heart disease. It occurs in America on the first Friday in February each year, where people wear red. Designed to warn women of their number one health threat, "The Heart Truth" campaign created and introduced the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness in 2002 to deliver an urgent wakeup call to American women.



## The Regulations for Collaborating with PAs Have Changed

Recently enacted legislation (PA 100-453) changed regulatory requirements pertaining to physician assistants (PAs).

To learn more, access ISMS' medical legal guideline at [www.isms.org](http://www.isms.org) on Physician Assistants' Authority to Diagnose and Prescribe. The resource covers physician responsibilities related to PAs; written collaborative agreements, with samples included; scope of practice for PAs and much more!

Please note that ISMS cannot provide legal advice, and private legal matters should be referred to

your practice attorney. **If you have questions, please contact the ISMS Legal Department at 800.782.4767 ext. 6485.**

*\*This ISMS medical legal guideline is a member benefit and is password protected.*

**If you need to request a username and password, contact online support at 888.476.7776 or [onlinehelp@isms.org](mailto:onlinehelp@isms.org) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. After-hours requests are answered promptly the next business day. You may also register online or retrieve your username or password.**

*Source: ISMS Physician Advocate*

# What Documents Should You Collect When Hiring APRNs or PAs?

If your medical office is preparing to hire an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) or a Physician Assistant (PA), check out ISMS' handy licensure checklist.

The resource covers what documents you will need to collect when hiring APRNs or PAs, or when your physician plans to sign a written collaborative agreement with any of these health care professionals.

Download the APRN & PA Licensure Checklist today at [www.isms.org](http://www.isms.org).

**Any questions? As a practice management professional of an ISMS member, you may contact the ISMS Legal Department with questions at 800.782.4767 ext. 6485.**

*Please note: ISMS cannot provide legal advice, and private legal matters should be referred to your practice attorney.*

*This checklist is an ISMS member benefit and is password protected. If you wish to access this resource and need to request a username and password as a practice management professional of an ISMS member, please contact Felicia Robinson at [feliciarobinson@isms.org](mailto:feliciarobinson@isms.org).*

*Source: ISMS off the Charts*

The Newsletter for the St. Clair County Medical Society and the Madison County Medical Society is published monthly except during July and August. The society does not assume responsibility for statements, content or opinions of authors, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the St. Clair County Medical Society or the Madison County Medical Society, the editor, editor board, Board of Directors or staff. Any article containing medical or legal information printed does not constitute medical or legal advice. Readers should consult with their physician or attorney for medical or legal advice.

Advertisements and Articles are accepted at the society office. All advertising copy and submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior the publication month – e.g. FEBRUARY 10th for the February publication. **To reserve space contact Elaine Hoffmann at 618.397.5315.**

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# What New Laws Pertaining to Medicine Kicked in on January 1?

In between the negotiations to end Illinois' longest budget impasse in history, lawmakers managed to pass about 200 laws that took effect on January 1. Among them, corn is now the official grain of Illinois, bike riding is the official exercise and pet owners can create partial or joint custody for pets as part of a divorce agreement!

## Highlights of new laws as they pertain to medicine:

### Opioid crisis, drug abuse prevention

- + Public Act 100-0564 requires anyone possessing an Illinois controlled substance license to register with Illinois' Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). There is also a new requirement for prescribers to access the PMP before writing an initial prescription for a Schedule II narcotic, such as an opioid (some exceptions apply).
- + Public Act 100-0368 makes changes to the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to prohibit synthetic drugs like bath salts.\*
- + Public Act 100-0404 creates an imprisonment term for a person who unlawfully delivers a controlled substance to another person, and that other person's death is caused by any amount of that controlled substance.

### Health IT

- + Public Act 100-0385 removes the requirement that a psychiatrist be in the same room as a Medicaid patient when providing services, thus allowing treatment via teleconference.
- + Public Act 100-0317 creates the Telehealth Act and amends the definition of "telemedicine" to include treatment of a patient in Illinois by a person in a different location than the patient. Telemedicine does not include health care services provided to an existing patient while the Illinois physician or

patient is traveling.

### Medical Service

- + Public Act 100-0041 allows driver's license or identification card applicants who are 16 years old or older (rather than 18) the opportunity to be included in the First Person Consent Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.
- + Public Act 100-0280 allows emergency medical services personnel to administer Schedule II, III, IV or V controlled substances to a person in the scope of their employment without a written, electronic or oral prescription.
- + Public Act 100-0099 requires hospitals and health care providers that receive funds from the State to only refer patients to agencies that are properly licensed under the Home Health, Home Services, and Home Nursing Agency Licensure Act.
- + Public Act 100-0342 requires the Department of Public Health to develop an informational brochure about meningococcal disease and requires institutions of higher education to provide the brochure to students.
- + Public Act 100-0247 requires the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to create a course on mental health awareness including recognizing mental crises that require an immediate response.
- + Public Act 100-0306 prohibits hospitals from maintaining a list of individuals who cannot be admitted for treatment.
- + Public Act 100-0050 amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act to expand the list of entities in which authorized direct care staff can administer medications to people with developmental disabilities.

- + Public Act 100-0395 requires insurance to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening and MRI if a mammogram demonstrates dense breast tissue, when medically necessary as determined by a physician.

### Medical Legal

- + Public Act 100-0549 expands the list of goods or services covered by the Prompt Payment Act to include prevention, intervention, or treatment services and supports for youth. (The list already includes covered health care provided to eligible adults and their covered dependents.)
- + Public Act 100-0386 bars health insurance companies from denying coverage to Illinoisans with preexisting conditions.
- + Public Act 100-0513 renews the Nurse Practice Act with modifications to provide advanced practice registered nurses practice more independence and prescribing rights. ISMS successfully reeled back the APRN agenda and initiated legislation that keeps in place many important patient safeguards, while allowing some additional authority for advanced practice registered nurses who pursue further education and clinical training.
- + Public Act 100-0286 requires the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to consider mitigating factors when considering applicants with criminal convictions for certain licenses, certificates and registrations.

*\*As it is widely believed that most bath salts are made with methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), the ISMS House of Delegates adopted policy in 2011 to ban MDPV because it was being sold as bath salts. Later, ISMS-supported legislation was signed into law adding MDPV to the list of Schedule I Controlled Substances, making it illegal to possess MDPV in Illinois. Source: ISMS.org*

## MISSION STATEMENTS

### **Madison County Medical Society**

The mission of the Madison County Medical Society is to be an advocate for the physicians of Madison County and for the health and well-being of the patients we serve.

### **St. Clair County Medical Society**

The St. Clair County Medical Society acts as a liaison between organized medicine and the community, representing its members before county, city and state officials. SCCMS promotes quality medical service for the citizens of St. Clair County.

The purpose of this society shall be to promote the science and the art of medicine and the betterment of public health.

### **St. Clair/Madison County Medical Society**

6400 West Main Street  
Suite 3-L  
Belleville, Illinois 62223  
Telephone: 618.397.5315  
Email: stclairmed96@gmail.com  
Website: stclairmed.com

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**St. Clair County Medical Society**  
618.397.5315

**Illinois State Medical Society**  
800.782.4767

**ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company**  
800.782.4767

**Department of Financial Professional Regulations**  
Springfield Illinois 217.785.0880  
Chicago 312.814.4500

# February is American Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease.

The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier choices.

Make a difference in your community: Spread the word about strategies for preventing heart disease and encourage people to live heart healthy lives.

### **How can American Heart Month make a difference?**

We can use this month to raise awareness about heart disease and how people can prevent it – both at home and in the community. Here are just a few ideas:

- + Encourage families to make small changes, like using spices to season their food instead of salt.
- + Motivate teachers and administrators to make physical activity a part of the school day. This can help students start good habits early.
- + Ask doctors and nurses to be leaders in their communities by speaking out about ways to prevent heart disease.

### **How can I help spread the word?**

We've made it easier for you to make a difference. This toolkit is full of ideas to help you take action today. For example:

- + Add information about living a heart healthy lifestyle to your newsletter.
- + Tweet about American Heart Month.
- + Host a community event where families can be active while learning about local health resources.
- + Take action: Be the cure! Join the American Heart Association's national movement in support of healthier communities and healthier lives.

Source: <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>



# Important Items to Consider When Creating a Student Loan Repayment Strategy

Jeff Witz, CFP® | David Zemon | MEDIQUS Asset Advisors, Inc.

“Results. One client at a time.” (sm)

Statistics show that today’s physicians are leaving their programs having accumulated an average debt of just under \$200,000 plus an additional \$25,000 in undergraduate student loan debt they carried over from previous programs. Finding a strategy for repaying this debt in the most efficient manner is critically important to many physicians’ long-term financial success.

When evaluating different repayment strategies, here are some things to consider:

Will you be practicing at a for-profit or non-profit organization? Public Service Loan Forgiveness is worth considering for physicians with substantial student loan debt. Many physicians complete their residencies and fellowships at non-profit hospitals. If they were paying their loans during that time, they may already be 5-7 years into the 10-year loan forgiveness process.

Are there loan repayment assistance programs available to you? The National Institutes of Health (NIH) repays up to \$35,000 per year of student loans if you agree to conduct medical research in needed fields. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) offers tax-free loan

repayment assistance of up to \$50,000 for a 2-year commitment to qualified health care providers who choose to take their skills to geographic areas with inadequate medical care. Additionally, most individual states have loan repayment assistance programs for physicians who practice in their state facilities.

Is refinancing a viable option? If you practice medicine at a for-profit company, like many private practices are, refinancing is worth exploring. Refinancing can dramatically reduce your interest rates and monthly payments. The lower interest rate may result in paying less over the lifetime of the loan. Refinancing may also free up enough monthly funds that can be used to save other important financial goals.

Everyone’s situation is unique, and many factors influence which repayment strategy is best. Consult your financial professional to determine which student loan repayment strategy fits your needs best.

**Jeff Witz, CFP® and David Zemon welcome readers’ questions. They can be reached at 800.883.8555 or at [witz@mediqus.com](mailto:witz@mediqus.com) or [zemon@mediqus.com](mailto:zemon@mediqus.com).**

*<sup>1</sup>Education Debt Manager (Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington D.C., 2016), Page 5.*

## SCCMS 2018 Officers

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Cory McGee – Madison County  
312.853.6525 Ext. 6526

Lindsey Krassel – St. Clair County  
312.580.6493

# In Memory of Physician, Diane A. Megahy, M.D.

Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has withdrawn from our midst Dr. Diane Megahy. She departed this life on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Megahy received her medical education and training at the University of Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt and completed her hospital internship at SIU Family Practice in Belleville.

Dr. Megahy was a member of the St. Clair County Medical Society since 1987. She served on the Board of Directors, several committees and as President in 2007. She was a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, American Medical

Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. Megahy is survived by her husband, Dr. Mohamed Megahy; children, Hassan (Laure) Megahy, Hala Megahy, Heba Megahy; grandchildren, Alex Megahy, Delilah Megahy, and Jack Megahy; sister, Gigi Raygor; nephew, Rich Hammond; nieces, Gigi Richmond, Trudy Pierog and Camile Krumweide and a cousin, Joy Peterson.

Fellow members of the St. Clair County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society hereby acknowledge they have lost a dedicated colleague in Dr. Megahy, a physician who worked tirelessly for the public good and the interests of medicine.

Let us, the St. Clair County Medical Society, resolve that the death of Dr. Diane A. Megahy be expressed a great loss to all of us, and that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Let us resolve that a copy of this resolution of condolence be entered into our minutes and appear in the newsletter of the St. Clair County Medical Society.

Finally, let us resolve that this testimonial of condolence signed and sealed, be offered to the family of our departed friend and sister physician as our expression of deepest sympathy.

St. Clair County Medical Society

# In Memory of Physician, Gregorio Sierra, M.D

Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has withdrawn from our midst Dr. Gregorio Sierra. He departed this life on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at home peacefully surrounded by his family.

Dr. Sierra started his life in a small rural town in Cuba. He excelled at his studies held in a one room schoolhouse, and graduated from the University of Havana Medical School. He married his wife, Anita, on June 30, 1954, and on July 14 of that year they arrived in St. Louis where he began his residency at St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis. He was a board-certified pathologist and headed St. Clair Medical Laboratory for three decades.

Dr. Sierra loved his family and friends, his church, the St. Louis Cardinals and Fox News. He enjoyed golfing, playing bridge, fishing, history, traveling and life in general. He was very proud of his children and obtained great pride and joy in supporting their

educational achievements and various accomplishments. He was involved in his community throughout his life and was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church, the Serra Club, The Rotary Club of St. Clair County (West), Illinois State Medical Society, St. Clair County Medical Society, the Salvation Army, Signal Hill Neighborhood Association and a board director of local banks. He was an Emeritus Fellow of the College of American Pathologists.

Dr. Sierra never met a stranger, lived his life with an open hand and heart and deep faith. Those whose paths he crossed never forgot him nor he them.

Dr. Sierra is survived by his Anita, his wife of 63 years, his children, Ana Maria Sierra, Madelyn Sierra, Vivian Sierra, Gregory (Sara) Sierra, Alicia (Michael Cullipher) Sierra and ten grandchildren, Madelyn, August, Alexander, Leo, Joaquin, Isabel, Sofia, Chloe, Claudia and Gregory.

Fellow members of the St. Clair County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society hereby acknowledge they have lost a dedicated colleague in Dr. Sierra, a man who worked tirelessly for the public good and the interests of medicine.

Let us, the St. Clair County Medical Society, resolve that the death of Dr. Gregorio Sierra be expressed a great loss to all of us, and that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Let us resolve that a copy of this resolution of condolence be entered into our minutes and appear in the newsletter of the St. Clair County Medical Society.

Finally, let us resolve that this testimonial of condolence signed and sealed, be offered to the family of our departed friend and brother physician as our expression of deepest sympathy.

St. Clair County Medical Society





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