

Medical Society

NEWSLETTER



A best friend is like a four leaf clover:
hard to find
AND LUCKY TO HAVE.

-UNKNOWN

MARCH 2018

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Happy 
St. Patrick's
Day

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects people in all racial and ethnic groups and is most often found in people age 50 and older.

The good news? If everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to encourage people to get screened.



COLON CANCER
AWARENESS

Dates to Remember

Friday March 2, 2018

Dress in Blue for National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Day

Sunday March 11, 2018

Day Light Saving Time Begins

Saturday March 17, 2018

St. Patrick's Day

Monday, March 20, 2018

First Day of Spring & International Earth Day

Friday, March 30, 2018

National Doctor's Day



ISMS Annual Meeting and House of Delegates

The 2018 Annual House of Delegates meeting will take place Friday April 20- Sunday April 22 2018 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.

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 or by mail to 6400 West Main Street Suite 3-L Belleville, IL. 62223.

Resolutions must be submitted to ISMS before Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

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 or call
312.853.4745 or 800.782.4767
ext. 4745.





**May your home always be
too small to hold your friends.**

IRISH TOAST



Do we have your E-Mail Address?

Do you have an e-mail address that SCCMS/MCMS doesn't have on file? If so, please let us know. We'll keep you informed about legislative issues, society happenings, and other organized medicine issues. It's a great way to communicate so be sure you forward your e-mail address to the society office at stclairmed96@gmail.com or fax it to 618.397.1993 or write us at SCCMS, 6400 West Main Street Suite 3-L, Belleville, IL 62223. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and will not be shared.

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.**

HIDEG



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8601 W. Main St. • Belleville

Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 28

The nation's ongoing opioid epidemic proves that addiction, overdose or both can be as close as the medicine cabinet of a family member or friend. After all, one third of all U.S. prescriptions go unused each year.

Do Your Patients Know What to Do with Unused Medications?

Expired and unused prescription medications are helping to fuel our country's opioid epidemic. The majority of teens abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends – and the home medicine cabinet.

The key is to prevent unused medications from getting into the hands of those who might



misuse them, as well as disposing of medications in a way that does not harm the environment or others. Be sure to remind your patients of the importance of disposing any unused medications.

Local residents can drop off their outdated or unwanted medications/ drugs for no charge in a “Drop-Box” at the following locations.

Drugs will be safely disposed of by incineration.

St. Clair County Sheriff's Department

700 North Fifth Street
Belleville, IL. 62220
618.277.3505

O'Fallon Police Department

285 North Seven Hills
O'Fallon, IL. 62269
618.624.4545

Freeburg Police Department

14 Southgate Center
Freeburg, IL. 62243
618.539.5545

Belleville Police Department

720 West Main Street
Belleville, IL. 62220
618.234.1212

Fairview Heights Police Department

10027 Bunkum Road
Fairview Heights, IL. 62208
618.489.2100

Dauber Pharmacy

16 East Main Street
Mascoutah, IL. 62258
618.566.8520

For more information, please contact the St. Clair County Health Department at 618.233.7769

Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Accepted Items

- ✓ Prescription pills and liquids (liquids must be in a leak proof containers)
- ✓ Over-the-counter Medications
- ✓ Illegal substances

Annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Unaccepted Items

- ✗ Mercury thermometers
- ✗ Harp/needles
- ✗ Biomedical waste (items containing blood/ tissue or body fluids)

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have relocated either your office or residence please don't forget to let the society office know. To make sure we have your correct contact information, send it to us by e-mail at stclairmed96@gmail.com or call the office at 618.379.5315.



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

10 Ways Physicians/ Healthcare Providers Can Reduce Their Exposure To Medical Malpractice Claims

In October of last year I was asked to give a presentation to a group of physicians at a medical society meeting about ways physicians can minimize their exposure to medical malpractice claims. Because my entire professional career has been associated with healthcare, I always get the question from healthcare providers: "What can I do to not get sued?" Of course, my answer is always, "absolutely nothing." If someone decides to sue you for looking at him or her the wrong way he or she can, but that doesn't mean they will prevail. So the question should be: What can you do to reduce your exposure to medical malpractice claims.

Just to give you some background about me, as I previously stated, my entire professional career has been based in healthcare. I started off as an Air Force Reserve medic, then an Air Force Reserve Registered Nurse. Outside of the Air Force as a nurse I worked in ventilator/respiratory rehab, telephone triage for a major insurance carrier, special radiology, corrections and neurosurgery intensive care to name a few areas of

my practice. Ultimately, my healthcare careers lead me to healthcare management as a nurse supervisor, Director of Medical/Surgical units and a Healthcare Administrator. Then (drum roll...) I had the great idea to escape the field of healthcare (so I thought) and

become an attorney. Since becoming an attorney and several years later, I have been defending doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare workers in medical malpractice lawsuits. So healthcare industry, it looks like you are stuck with me.

As most of us know, medical malpractice costs the healthcare

industry billions of dollars every year. The spiraling cost of defending these claims and acquiring expensive medical malpractice insurance have left some healthcare providers feeling abandoned and has undermined their confidence and trust in the healthcare industry. Some states have tried tort reform to lessen the blow of medical malpractice claims, but this has had minimal impact on the landscape of the healthcare industry created by these claims. Although one cannot control
(Continued on the next page)



**Untress L. Quinn
Sandbergh, Pheonix &
Von Gontard, P.C.**

the filing of a lawsuit, here are 10 things a doctor/healthcare provider can do to reduce their medical malpractice exposure:

1. Excellent Patient Relations

My experience has shown it is normally the “nice” doctor who is sued less often. I believe it is undisputed that good bedside manner and having a good rapport with your patient will decrease the chances of you being sued. However, this not only includes the doctor himself, but also the hospital or doctor office staff who come in contact with the patient. Both the doctor and his/her staff should be trained on establishing and maintaining good patient relations. It never ceases to amaze me how often lawsuits occur because the patient perceived the staff or doctor was rude.

2. Open Communications

Open communications personalizes the physician/healthcare provider, but also keeps the patient informed. Often times the lack of communication can lead to a medical malpractice claim being filed.

3. Informed Consent

It is very important to inform the patient of the risk, benefits, alternatives to treatment, and make sure that they understand these things. Informing the patients of their freedom of choice is very important. Ensure that consent forms are completed in their entirety, and that the patient understands what’s contained on a consent form and signs the consent form. A signature goes a long way to mitigate and defend a medical malpractice claim made against the healthcare provider. It is also a good idea to

document the encounter with the patient regarding the discussion of informed consent and the patient’s understanding.

4. Document, Document, Document

Although the quantity and quality of documentation do not give rise to a medical malpractice action, good documentation goes a long way in defending a malpractice claim. Documentation should be legible, legible, legible, organized, timely, and any alterations or revisions should be done based on the policies and procedures of the organization. For example, if a late note needs to be added, it needs to be documented as such. The worst thing a healthcare provider can do is attempt to change or alter the record to cover his or her mistake.

5. Know The Recognized Standard Of Care

Healthcare providers should stay abreast of the most recent laws, regulations or rules that affect their practice. This would include staying up-to-date on required annual training. It goes without saying that knowing the latest standard of care will go a long way in preventing a medical malpractice action.

6. Ensure Patient Confidentiality

Please understand that the medical information of the patient belongs to the patient. It should not be disclosed to family members, left on voicemails, emails, or text messages. Results of diagnostic testing should be communicated to the patient, most preferably in person. Requests by patients to have others have their information should be documented and the policies and procedures of

(Continued on the next page)

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312.580.2416

John-Michael Dyer
Outreach Representative
312.580.6472

Lindsey Joseph – St. Clair County
312.580.6493

SAVE THE DATE

St. Clair and Madison County

Annual Joint Meeting – Thursday
May 10, 2018

Double Tree Hotel
1000 East Plaza, Collinsville, IL.

Guest Speaker –
Dr. Kathrine Tynus

Annual Golf Outing

Physician/Attorney 3rd Annual
Golf Outing will be held Thursday,
May 17, 2018 at St. Clair Country
Club – Noon Shot Gun Start. Call
the medical society office to
reserve your spot.

March 30 – National Doctors' Day

Thank You! Members of the
St. Clair & Madison County
Medical Societies

May your commitment be
remembered as we honor you
on Doctors' Day

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have a unique service
or treatment that you offer in
your practice, we would like
to highlight you in one of our
newsletters. This is a great
opportunity for you to inform
other practices about what you
do and the service you provide.

If you are interested, please
submit an article that we will
feature in the SCCMS/MCMS
Newsletter along with your
photo on the front cover. We
will schedule a photo shoot
if needed.



**Call today
to reserve
your space.**

the organization should be followed
regarding the implementation of
such request.

7. Follow-Up On All Tests

Reports (especially abnormal reports)
should be timely reported to the
patient and DOCUMENTED. Many
suits are filed regarding the failure to
follow-up on diagnostic testing.

8. Follow-Up On Referrals

When a doctor makes a referral, it is
not a bad idea to assist the patient
with the referral process. This
includes making a call or writing a
letter to the doctor to whom the
patient was referred. The doctor
should calendar for the receipt of the
referral specialist's report and if the
patient doesn't make the referral,
follow up with the patient and
document this encounter. A certified
letter or telephone call to the patient
should be made regarding the
patient's failure to follow up and this
also should be documented.

9. Never Attempt To Alter Medical Records

As discussed above, the worst thing
that a physician or healthcare provider
can do is to attempt to alter the
medical record in an attempt to cover
up a mishap. Nonetheless, in practice,
often times and in the absence of any
mistake, documentation is left out or
forgotten and should be added to the
record when remembered. Simply
follow the policies and procedures of
the organization for correcting,
adding, or making revisions to the
medical record.


10. Do Not Diagnose Over The Telephone Or Prescribe Medications Over The Telephone If Possible

In my experience, patients are not

the best historians. A diagnosis of an
illness should include, not only a
history, but a physical examination of
the patient. This means a patient
needs to be present and in person
for these two assessment tools to be
implemented. If you have to
prescribe medication over the
telephone, please document the
instructions given for follow-up and
the reasons the medications were
prescribed. It is no dispute that
medical malpractice is a problem
that pervades the healthcare
industry. These claims have changed
the landscape of how healthcare is
delivered and has costs the industry
billions of dollars. Although the
doctor or healthcare provider cannot
prevent the filing of a lawsuit, the 10
items discussed above can minimize
exposure to medical malpractice
claims and provide positive and
productive healthcare encounters.

Untress Quinn focuses his legal
practice on labor and employment,
commercial and medical malpractice
litigation and has defended multiple
catastrophic and complex litigation
cases involving civil rights, labor and
employment, product liability and
medical malpractice cases which
included neurologic, obstetric,
neonatal, pediatric, cardio-thoracic,
psychiatric and other traumatic
injuries. As a Registered Nurse with
experience in direct patient care,
Untress understands the complex
issues at play in medical malpractice
litigation, which helps him better guide
his clients through difficult legal issues.

**He can be reached at 618.624.3492
or uquinn@sandbergphoenix.com**



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for your community,

Who's caring
for you?

For more than 40 years, physicians have trusted ISMIE to protect them. From proprietary Risk Management programs to physician-led claims management, ISMIE's unique services offer quality, protection, service and value. Learn more at ismie.com/growth.

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Our passion protects yours