

**August 2015**

Volume 2, Issue 6

# New York State Council Health-system Pharmacists



## ***Board of Directors***

President  
***Stephanie Seyse***

President Elect  
***Joseph Pinto***

Immediate Past  
President  
***Elizabeth Shlom***

Vice President, Public  
Policy  
***Monica Mehta***

Treasurer  
***Philip Manning***

Chair, House of Delegates  
***Marcia Gutfeld***

Chapter Services  
***William Allan Prescott, Jr.***

Pharmacy Management  
***Lisa Voigt***

Communications Services  
***Catherine Millares-Sipin***

Pharmacy Practice  
***Robert DiGregorio***

Industry Affairs  
***Vincent Giambanco***

Education and Workforce  
Development  
***Heide Christensen***

Executive Director  
***Shaun Flynn***

Office Staff  
***Carol Bizan***  
***Katie Fontana***

## **President's Message**

Dear NYSCHP Members,

I hope everyone is having a great summer and is finding time for some rest and relaxation! As the Fall approaches it is time for us to start gearing up for a great year ahead! Across the state, your Chapter leadership has been very busy planning the activities for the upcoming year. There are so many great programs being put together (i.e., CE, social events, networking opportunities, collaboration among chapters, etc.) that you don't want to miss. Check out the NYSCHP website Calendar for details of these events.

The NYSCHP also has several upcoming programs. The Student Program at Long Island University on August 28<sup>th</sup> is structured to help participants *Stay a "Step Ahead" of their Competition*. Next is the Tri-State meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Tarrytown, which in addition to the CE programs also includes an Exhibitors Forum, Student Leadership Program and a Residency Showcase (program participation in the Showcase is free to any program that has one registered pharmacist for the conference). There will also be two Critical Care programs. The upstate program will be held at D'Youville College on September 19<sup>th</sup> and the downstate one at New York Presbyterian Hospital on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Planning has also started on the Jan Keltz Winter Program that will take place January 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Lake Placid.

The various NYSCHP committees have also been hard at work to ensure that we are continuing to move our organization in a positive direction. The membership committee has created a membership needs assessment that will be coming your way soon. It is vital that everyone takes a few minutes to complete the survey. Results from the assessment will be utilized to further guide us in the programming we should be creating for you, our members. This is your organization and the best way to get the most out of it is to help us understand your needs. Watch your email for the survey and make sure your voice is heard!

***Stephanie Seyse***  
President, NYSCHP



## First Annual New York City versus Royal Counties Chapter Touch Football

The first annual NYC v. Royals NYSCHP two-hand touch football scrimmage took place on Sunday afternoon, July 12th, 2015. The event proved to be a success, with a great turnout from members of both chapters gathered in Central Park's East Meadow for some friendly, yet fierce competition. The weather was perfect for an action-packed match, as both teams demonstrated their athletic prowess in a nail-biter that came down to the last minute. The Royals chapter had some new blood on the field, with LIJ pharmacy residents cheering on the sidelines and NYHHS VAMC residents playing some exciting downs. While a great effort was given by both chapters, the game ended in a 2-2 tie. Is that the smell of a brewing rivalry?

Stay tuned for the next NYSCHP outing!

*Natalie Ho, Pharm.D.*

*PGY-1 New York Harbor Healthcare System, VA*



## Nominations Committee

***Do you want to be on the forefront of advancing pharmacy as an essential component of health care in New York State?*** The Nominations Committee is beginning its task of identifying the next round of candidates for future roles on the NYSCHP Board of Directors. As the Immediate Past President traditionally chairs the Nominations Committee I am currently seeking committee members as well as candidates for Board positions. All Board positions have a two-year term of office, except the President, which is a 3-year term (President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President). And although it seems counter-intuitive, the Nominations Committee will be seeking candidates to fill the positions below, for which members were just installed at the 2015 Annual Assembly. This ballot will be sent to members during the summer of 2016 and the elected members will be installed at the Annual Assembly in 2017. The only exceptions are the Treasurer and Chair of the House of Delegates - both of which are voted into office by the 2016 House of Delegates, and will resume their office immediately thereafter.

- Treasurer (2016-18)
- Chair of the House of Delegates (2016-18)
- Director of Chapter Services (2017-19)
- Director of Pharmacy Management (2017-19)
- Director of Communications (2017-19)

And of course -

- President-Elect (2017), who will also be President (2018) and Immediate Past President (2019)

When identifying potential candidates for NYSCHP Board of Director positions, the following qualities are given the utmost consideration:

- Demonstrated leadership qualities and exemplary practice
- Demonstrated interest in the affairs of NYSCHP
- Experience as an officer of a local chapter

We are seeking at least two qualified candidates for each position and we are especially looking for future leaders, mentors and role models for health-system pharmacy in New York State. Duties, responsibilities and time commitment are described in the document **NYSCHP Candidate Guide to Nominations** on the NYSCHP website (under About Us/Board of Directors). If you would like to nominate someone or self-nominate yourself for any of these positions, please send an email to [shlom@gnyha.org](mailto:shlom@gnyha.org) no later than October 1.

Elizabeth Shlom  
Immediate Past President, NYSCHP

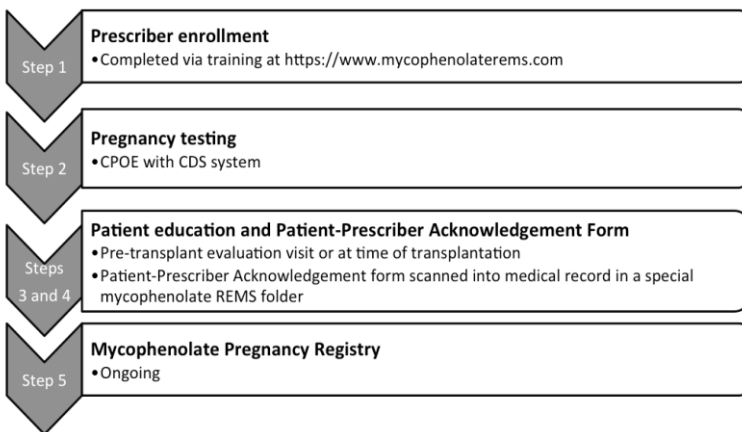
## Hot Topic: Best Practices

### NOVEL USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: A PROCESS FOR MYCOPHENOLATE RISK EVALUATION MITIGATION FULFILLMENT

Risk Evaluation Mitigation Strategies (REMS), required by the FDA, were developed to ensure that the benefits of a medication outweigh its risks. Currently, there are two immunosuppressive agents used in solid organ transplantation with FDA-mandated REMS programs: belatacept and mycophenolate. In 2012, a single, shared REMS for all drugs containing mycophenolate was approved to ensure the safe use of these agents in women of childbearing potential. Fulfillment of intricate REMS can be complex and time consuming, integration of such requirements into a transplant centers work-flow with innovative solutions can ensure compliance and patient safety. This summary will review novel approaches using customized information technology to implement the mycophenolate REMS program components.

#### Approach

The process for developing the REMS solutions involved a multidisciplinary collaboration between transplant clinical pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and members of the quality and information technology divisions.



A mycophenolate medication use guideline was developed to outline the REMS program components and our five-step fulfillment process.

The guideline was used as the framework to customize our institution's computerized physician order entry (CPOE) system. Customized subfolders and order-entry forms with clinical decision support (CDS) algorithms were used to guide prescribers through REMS components for female patients between 9 and 59 years of age, institution-specific interpretation of 'childbearing potential.'

We created a customized form with embedded medical logic modules (MLM) for all oral and intravenous mycophenolate entries to guide prescribers through REMS components for female patients between 9 and 59 years of age (institution-specific interpretation of “child-bearing potential”), but not for females <9 or ≥60 years of age or male patients. Mycophenolate entry forms are comprised of 7 sections. Section A describes the patient’s demographics (age and gender) from which the MLM retrieves information to generate the subsequent CDS process. A website link to the institution-specific mycophenolate REMS guideline is available in Section B.

**Patient demographics meet the criteria for REMS program (females between 9 and 59 years of age):**

Section C is programmed to display a mandatory field for the prescriber to select patient-specific clinical data within the integrated dropdown menu options (choices to opt-in or opt-out are available in section C). Should a prescriber indicate that their female patient is pre-pubescent or post-menopausal, the programmed code will exclude the data requirements for sections D and E and will “gray-out” the selections allowing the prescriber to proceed to section G. If the patient meets criteria for the REMS program, the prescriber must indicate via the radio button (Section E) that the patient has been educated on the risks of mycophenolate therapy during pregnancy and that a Patient-Prescriber Acknowledgement Form has been completed and is available in the medical record. A hard-stop with an accompanying alert precludes a provider from proceeding with an order unless they confirm the completion of the REMS steps. To facilitate prescriber ease, section E of the entry item provides a lab order for a pregnancy test with the appropriate sensitivity and frequency as required by the REMS program. This entry is programmed with a MLM that searches the patient’s profile for a pregnancy test performed during the specific admission. If not found, the system will add a pregnancy test to the most recent labs performed (if available) or to add the test to the next scheduled phlebotomy time. In Section F, hyperlinks to the patient-prescriber acknowledgement form, a patient resource kit, and additional information for prescribers at [www.mycophenolaterems.com](http://www.mycophenolaterems.com). The last section, G, is comprised of the traditional prescribing parameters including the medication name, dosing, route of administration, and administration frequency.

**Patient demographics do not meet the criteria for REMS program (females <9 and >59 years of age or male):**

MLMs have been integrated in the entry forms to enable prescribers to skip sections and the pertinent disqualifying criteria will appear in Section C: pre-pubescent female, post-menopausal female, or male. This also results in a “graying-out” of sections D and E, allowing the prescriber to proceed directly to section G where the traditional prescribing parameters can be completed and the order submitted.

Maintaining, customizing, and continuously evaluating all CDS systems within a vendor supplied EHR is paramount to optimize patient care and safety. Distinct and complex patient populations and unique medication therapies require client-based EHR customization. Our approach to CDS customization has been instrumental in ensuring the safe and appropriate use of immunosuppressive agents through prescriber compliance with regulatory standards, and enhancing patient-centered care through education.

Name	Medical Record #	Date of birth	Section A
Location		Gender	Allergies
Order Name: Mycophenolate sodium			
Information box: hyperlink to Mycophenolate REMS process			Section B
My patient is:			
<input type="radio"/> Female with childbearing potential	<input type="radio"/> Male	Section C	
	<input type="radio"/> Pre-pubescent female		
	<input type="radio"/> Post-menopausal female		
<input type="radio"/> Patient education and patient-prescriber acknowledgement form are complete			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HCG Lab tests			
Useful Links:			Section F
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient-prescriber acknowledgement form	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient resource kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Information for prescribers	
Dose	Route	Section G	
Frequency	Start date		

Demetra Tsapepas, PharmD, BCPS  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
det9021@nyp.org





## NYSCHP and Local Chapter Upcoming Events

2015

- August 28 – Downstate Student Program
- September 13 – NYC Chapter, Cleaning Highway Event
- September 18 – Tri-State Health-system Pharmacy Summit
- September 19 – Upstate Critical Care Program
- September 22 – NYC and Royal Networking Event
- October 2 – Downstate Critical Care Program



Connect with us through LinkedIn



Follow NYSCHP on Facebook!

Click [here](#) to Like our page!

