

Practice Management Committee

Members

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Responsibilities as Stated in the ACG Bylaws

This Committee shall be responsible for developing the practice management course held at the ACG Annual Meeting, any other regional or national practice management courses, coordination of College publications and educational efforts related to managed care issues and representation of the clinical GI practitioner concerns and perspectives to insurers, health plans, networks and other payor related entities.

Objectives

1. Develop and produce an effective Practice Management Course which is held annually in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.
2. Develop additional practice management seminars as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.
3. Expand practice management sessions into the College's Regional Postgraduate Courses.
4. At the direction of the Board of Trustees, develop educational programs on practice management to benefit the clinical and academic practitioner.

Committee Report

Immediately following last year's well received Practice Management Course, the committee met and began laying the ground work for the 2007 course. Following the leadership of

co-directors, Drs. Chalmers M. Nunn, Jr., and Stephen E. Deal the committee has developed a dynamic program for 2007 that is intended to teach the attendees valuable negotiating skills that can be used in many aspects of their practices. The program design includes physician-to-physician interaction and sharing of experience and knowledge. Other timely topics are included in the curriculum including a presentation on choosing an EMR for the GI practice by Dr. Philip Grossman the director of the first ACG Practice Management Course in 1987.

Committee members have been researching and developing resources with respect to practice management that it hopes will be useful to ACG members in managing their practices. One project well on its way is the work of Dr. R. Bruce Cameron. Dr. Cameron is accumulating a list of topic experts to write articles and guidelines on practice management topics that can be posted on the committee's page of the ACG website for access by members.

The committee continues to provide articles for the Practice Management Corner of the ACG Update newsletter. Committee members and topic experts including outside speakers from the College's practice management courses have written these articles. These articles are available on the Practice Management page of the ACG website.

Work on a pilot study for benchmarking quality performance in endoscopy has continued. A web-based tool is being trialed by physician representatives of gastroenterology practices in community practices and academic centers. Several software vendors have been participating and contributing their expertise to the effort. The initial data collection is going well and preliminary reports will be demonstrated in sessions during the 2007 ACG Annual Meeting. This work is an extension of the work published in *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* and *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* in April 2006 by the ACG-ASGE Joint Task Force for Endoscopic Quality in Endoscopy.

Dr. Lawrence B. Cohen has kept the committee abreast of developments in sedation for endoscopy. The article "Propofol Use Under the Direction of Trained Gastroenterologists: An Analysis of the Medicolegal Implications" (*Am J Gastroenterol* 2007;101:707-713) co-authored by Dr. Cohen was included with the committee's report to the Board of Trustees.

The committee has continued to support expansion of Practice Management topics into the ACG Regional programs. Practice Management topics have also been included in the College's new and successful Saturday with the GI Experts programs.

The committee will continue to look for areas to assist the College in being successful in an ever changing health care environment.