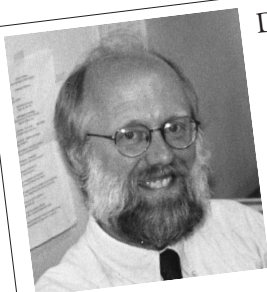




ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP 2003



Dear Members,

As I reflect on the events of the last year, I am so proud of us—you for your care of patients, the AAHCP for its important accomplishments:

- Despite our tiny size, we did indeed influence the Chronic Care Improvement sections of the new Medicare legislation. We are not satisfied with the CMS implementation of these provisions and will continue to work to see that there someday be an appropriate focus on the needs of the complexly-ill frail patients who we see on a daily basis. Congratulations to Board members George Taler, MD, and Jim Pyles, Esq., who provided leadership on this effort.
- We also were successful in deferring cuts in payment to two of the house call codes. We have already begun a renewed effort to raise payments for the domiciliary care codes through the lengthy, but important, CMS five-year review process which will begin in earnest this fall.
- Our publications efforts kicked into high gear. I was responsible for the Medical Director's Handbook, a labor of love I hope will be useful to all of you who are or are considering working more closely with home care agencies. The Unintended Weight Loss Guidelines, sent to you in the June 2004 issue of this newsletter, was the product of lengthy efforts by Drs. George Taler and Christine Ritchie. And, last but by no means least, a complete and comprehensive revision of the AMA Guidelines is nearly on its way to the printer. This group effort was led by Board member Joe Ramsdell, MD, through a cooperative agreement with the AMA. These guidelines have been the "bible" for everyone from residents to those in established practice, so we hope this long-needed effort will help everyone in the field.
- Thanks are also due to Peter Boling, MD, for his ongoing leadership in continuing to give the Faculty Development Seminar, and to Edward Ratner, MD, who continues to provide leadership in the development and diffusion of the home care exam and bibliography.
- Finally, I want to recognize again those who received our important house call doctor and provider of the year awards. Adding another category allowed us to include the important work of nurse practitioners, PAs, and others. Congratulations again to Benneth Husted, DO, and Whitney Doiron, CNP, GNP, ANP.

As I look back over my two years as President of the AAHCP, I am pleased and proud of our progress that, with your continuing support, will make us even more strong!

Wayne McCormick, MD, MPH
President

Board of Directors

Wayne C. McCormick, MD, MPH

President

Section Head, UWQAC Long Term Care Service
Harborview Medical Center
Seattle, WA

C. Gresham Bayne, MD

President-Elect

Chairman and Founder, The Call Doctor
Medical Group, Inc., Private Practice
San Diego, CA

Edward Ratner, MD

Immediate Past President

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

Stephen W. Holt, MA, MBA

Treasurer

President and CEO, The Visiting Nurse Association of
Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Jean A. Yudin, MSN, RN, CS

Secretary

Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, PA

Alan P. Abrams, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Geriatric Division,
The Cambridge Health Alliance
Boston, MA

Eric Baron, MD

Director and Founder, House Call Physicians, P.C., Private
Practice, Chief Medical Officer, National Medical
Management, Inc., Health Systems Integration Provider
Southfield, MI

Jeremy Boal, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine and Geriatrics
The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY

Peter A. Boling, MD

Professor of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University,
MCV Campus Director: MCV House Calls, MCV Long Term
Care, and MCV Campus Geriatrics Section
Richmond, VA

Delbra Caradine, MD

UAMS, Center on Aging
Little Rock, AR

Kevin G. Jackson, MD

Private Practice
Phoenix, AZ

Russell C. Libby, MD

American Pediatric Consultants, Inc.
Fairfax, VA

James C. Pyles, Esq.

Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, PC
Washington, DC

Joe W. Ramsdell, MD

Professor and Head, Division of General Internal
Medicine/Geriatrics; University of California, San Diego;
Medical Director, UCSD Home Care
San Diego, CA

Joanne Schwartzberg, MD

Director of Aging and Community Health,
American Medical Association
Chicago, IL

Robyn I. Stone, DrPH

Executive Director, Institute for the Future of Aging Services,
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Washington, DC

George Taler, MD

Director of Long Term Care, Washington Hospital Center
Washington, DC

Past AAHCP Presidents

2000-2002	Edward Ratner, MD
1998-2000	George Taler, MD
1996-1998	Peter A. Boling, MD
1994-1996	Allen I. Goldberg, MD, MBA, FAAP, FCCP, FACPE
1992-1994	Joanne Schwartzberg, MD
1989-1992	Joseph M. Keenan, MD
1988-1989	John Lewis, MD

Staff

Constance F. Row, FACHE

Executive Director

Sandra L. Monaco-Burton

Assistant Executive Director

Bernie Sciuto

Director of Administration and Membership Services

Membership, Programs, and Services

- 1. Membership Diversification:** While the AAHCP's membership remains small (just over 700 members), we are delighted with the growth in diversity of our membership, reflecting the diversity of interest in our field. Today, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Physician Assistants, Geriatric Care Managers, Social Workers, and Pharmacists make up 21 percent of the Academy's membership. For the first time this year we attended the annual meetings of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American College of Nurse Practitioners to educate a wider audience about home care.

written for physicians who either are or are considering becoming medical directors for home care agencies, covers topics such as the role of the medical director; rules, regulations, and standards; billing and reimbursement; Stark regulations; and includes sample contracts and forms. In addition, the **Medical Director Binders** that were developed for the course given in the last 1990s are available for purchase as well as **Communication Templates** to facilitate doctor-nurse communication. (Contact the AAHCP office for details.)
- 2. Building and Documenting Qualifications**
 - a. The Home Care Credentialing Examination:** This self-study examination, taken over from the American Board of Internal Medicine, gives home care medical professionals (MDs, NPs, PAs, and others) the opportunity to gain a credential that will document their advanced qualification in this field. To date, 47 home care medical providers have passed the exam. The Academy also developed a **bibliography of articles relating to home care** that also serves as a study guide for the exam.
 - b. The Faculty Development Seminar:** In the seminars, invited faculty who teach residents are given a program to acquaint them with options for teaching house calls and home care medicine to residents. Earlier this year the seminar was held in Cincinnati. The next site in planning is Philadelphia. The **Residency Training Faculty Development Seminar Materials** are available for those interested in hosting.
- 3. Developing Best Practice Guidelines and Recommendations and Member Recognition**
 - a. Guidelines:** *Unintended Weight Loss Guidelines*, supported by a grant from Ross Products Division, Abbott Laboratories, was published. The guidelines cover recommendations for recognizing, assessing, treating, and monitoring unintended weight loss in homebound patients, accounting for both the advantages and limitations of care in the home setting.
 - b. Booklets:** The Academy's popular booklets "**Making Home Care Work in Your Practice**" and "**Making House Calls A Part of Your Practice**" were updated. "**Medical Directorship of Home Health Agencies**" was also introduced (see below).
 - c. Medical Direction of Home Care Agencies:** "**Medical Directorship of Home Health Agencies,**"
- d. Annual Scientific Meeting and Member Recognition:** Another sold-out program featured morning presentations on pain management and wound care delivered in the home. The afternoon session covered current proactive health technologies as well as reimbursement and legal issues. An additional session was held for those interested in starting and managing a home care practice. We were pleased to honor our "House Call Doctor and Practitioners of the Year," our poster award winner, and the lifetime achievements of the late Larry W. Irvin, MD.
- e. Newsletter:** This year's bi-monthly editions have included: clinical vignettes with ideas as to how to code and describe the visits; detailed, personal accounts of home care practices; updates on reimbursement, the Stark Laws, and the malpractice insurance crisis; experiences in palliative care and treating pediatric patients; and an abstract of articles on home care. The Newsletter continues to be a valuable resource to all those working in this field.
- 4. Public Policy:** We were successful in deferring cuts in payment to two of the house call codes (99348 and 99350) and have already begun a renewed effort to raise payments for the domiciliary care codes. The AAHCP's voice has been heard in shaping federal Medicare legislation—specifically the Chronic Care Improvement portions of the new Medicare legislation. Unfortunately, after meeting with CMS and the White House Health Advisor, we believe that the planned implementation program will not concentrate on the high cost user patient population and will make most house call providers ineligible for participation. In the meantime, we are monitoring opportunities and communicating them to our members. And we are advocating for better programs.

AAHCP Publications and Training Materials

The Home Care Certification Examination: Exam, detailed score report, and the Home Care Bibliography. CD-Rom. \$325.

Home Care Bibliography: The first-ever bibliography of home care articles with 130 full-text articles and dozens of abstracts. CD-Rom. \$30.

Residency Training Faculty Development Seminar Materials: One-day course designed for internal medicine and family practice residency faculty. Binder, diskette of presentations, grant template, licensing agreement, and the videotape "The House Call: An Introduction." \$1,000.

Making House Calls A Part of Your Practice: Offers practical tips for those considering adding house calls to their practice. Booklet. \$21.50 members (\$28.50 nonmembers).

Making Home Care Work in Your Practice: A Brief Guide to Reimbursement: Covers codes and billing, domiciliary care visits, documentation for common house call codes, CPO billing, HME orders, and other issues. Booklet. \$13.50 members (\$15.50 nonmembers).

Medical Directorship of Home Health Agencies: Covers topics such as the role of the medical director; rules, regulations, and standards; billing and reimbursement; Stark regulations; and includes sample contracts and forms. Booklet. \$33.50 members (\$53.50 nonmembers).

All prices include shipping and handling.

Discounts available on orders for five or more copies of any one title. Contact the office.

Financial Information: 2003

(from the form 990 submitted to the Internal Revenue Service)

Total Revenue:	\$163,095
Expenses:	
Program Services	\$71,152
Management and General	\$91,538
Fundraising	-0-
Payments to Affiliates	-0-
Total expenses	\$162,690
Excess or (deficit) for the year	\$405
Net assets or fund balances at the end of the year	\$623,667

Sponsors

Aventis Pharmaceuticals
House Call Physicians, PC
Metrika, Inc.
MultiMedia HealthCare/Freedom, LLC
Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia
Visiting Physicians Association
Washington House Call Institute

Order Form for AAHCP Titles

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Title(s) ordered: _____

Amount due (refer to prices in list above): \$ _____

Check one: VISA/MasterCard
 Payment enclosed
(check payable to AAHCP)

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

AAHCP • P.O. Box 1037 • Edgewood, MD 21040-0337
Phone: (410) 676-7966 • Fax: (410) 676-7980
E-mail: aahcp@comcast.net • Website: www.aahcp.org