



Utilization Solutions in Healthcare *Solving the practice puzzle.*

October 2012

Putting your Practice Puzzle Together

A Monthly E-Zine for Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, Inc.



State and Federal Watch

National PA Week, October 6-12, offered many opportunities to honor PAs throughout the nation. Some of you may know that the original PA Day was Oct 6 – and that coincided with Dr. Eugene Stead's birthday. Dr. Stead, as our founding father, was a local legend at Duke Medical Center and those of us fortunate to have known him remember his great stories and his amazing vision for our profession.

This year, AAPA organized a group of PAs and PA students to congregate at Rockefeller Plaza on Wednesday, Oct. 10, during the "Today" show to promote the contributions of PAs to high-quality patient care.

It was a fun way to demonstrate that PAs are a vital member of the healthcare team.

Check out more here:

http://www.aapa.org/events/pa_week/resources/item.aspx?id=4911

Gimme the \$\$\$

Shared savings could become critical for hospitals

A recent Health Affairs article showed that a hospital loses about \$1.2 million in annual reimbursement revenue for each 1 percent drop in their complication rate. One reason for this financial setback is that fewer complications for patients result in shorter lengths of stay and more "empty" beds.

Hospitals are then in a quandary - constrained by lower reimbursements and revenues, but pressured to improve patient safety and care quality.

One proposed solution is creating programs to reduce surgical complications. If a hospital's surgical volume is growing, and if the hospital can sufficiently reduce the average length-of-stay for surgical patients without complications, the cash flow could be positive.

Under current reimbursement policies, hospitals may have a financial incentive to implement programs to reduce complications only if their inpatient surgical volume is growing or expected to increase. Hospitals with limited growth projections that are contemplating a surgical complication reduction program should establish agreements with payers to share in any savings generated by the program.

Reference:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2012/10/12/hlthaff.2011.0605.full.html>

Solve the Clinical Puzzle

We talk the talk, but do we walk the walk?

It is that time again for flu shots.

At the height of the flu pandemic in 2009, 38% of health care professionals did not get vaccinated. Last year, in the 2011-12 season, the CDC reported that 33.1% of health care workers did not receive their flu shots.

Check out the latest from the CDC and learn more about the vaccines available this season as well as the latest in flu activity.

Reference: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vax-summary.htm>

Your 2 cents - Do you routinely counsel patients about diet and exercise?

Participate in this month's industry poll by simply [clicking here!](#)



Our Solution for You

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Check out this great product from a terrific woman-owned business!

http://www.huggeemissyou.com/Breast_Cancer_Ribbon_Doll_Recordable_p/rcbc95.htm

Record anyone's voice even over THE PHONE AND COMPUTER!

All soft plush fabric with embroidered Pink Ribbon on the front. Incredibly soft to the touch and to the heart. Embroidered mouth and ear icons on the palm of its hands for you to record and listen to your heartwarming messages.

Give not only for inspiration and hope but also for fund raising. Huggs to go will donate \$1.00 from the sale of each Breast Cancer HUGGEE MISS YOU™ sold toward Breast Cancer Research and Programs.

MEDIA

We're in the news again!

[Vital Signs on Orlando Medical News](http://orlandomedicalnews.com/vital-signs-cms-1503)
<http://orlandomedicalnews.com/vital-signs-cms-1503>

Kind regards,

Lisa



Lisa Shock is a Duke University Physician Assistant graduate and has greater than 10 years of clinical experience in a variety of healthcare settings. In addition to previously owning and running a rural primary care clinic, she is the current president and CEO of Utilization Solutions in Healthcare, a company she created in response to the many questions she has received over the years about Physician Assistant utilization.

Lisa is a past president of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. She also contributed to the Physician Assistant profession by serving on the PA Advisory Council of the North Carolina Medical Board as well as the Quality Improvement and Health Information Technology Committee of the North Carolina Medical Society, and she remains a state PA expert in reimbursement and legislative issues. She enjoys part time clinical primary care practice and enjoys teaching geriatric medicine and long term care as a Duke PA Program faculty member.

Lisa was recently interviewed on BlogTalkRadio - [listen here!](#)

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President/CEO

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