

**NARA Spring Conference 2016**  
***THE WINDS OF CHANGE***  
***Will Your Business Soar or be Blown off Course?***

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016**

**8:00 - 9:00am**                      **Light Breakfast and Conference Sign In**

**9:00 - 9:30am**                      **President's Welcome**

- Stephen Hunter, PT, DPT, OCS  
NARA President

**9:30 - 11:30am**

**The Big Picture.** The elections in November will bring a new President, determine which party will control the House and Senate and hence the legislative agendas of those bodies, and bring new leadership to regulatory agencies such as HHS and CMS. Until the new President and Congress are sworn in next January, the outgoing Obama Administration will be pushing to leave its mark on health care policy by implementing new payment methodologies to replace the physician fee schedule, advance initiatives to base Medicare payments on value and expand post-acute care bundling, and encourage the growth of alternative delivery systems such as ACOs. Meanwhile, recent Congressional Budget Office projections renew warnings of Medicare trust fund insolvency bringing the prospect of more payment cuts for Medicare and Medicaid providers and intensified interest in curbing fraud and abuse. This session will take an in depth look at these and other "big picture" issues with an emphasis on how the interests of health care providers and their patients will be impacted. Among other topics, the session will examine the health care positions of the leading Presidential candidates, assess the outlook for control of the House and Senate and what that may mean for health care policy, examine the various permutations of government control (e.g. Democratic President with a Republican Senate and House), and assess what will happen to President Obama's health care initiative under the various political scenarios. The session will also explore how the nearing Medicare trust fund insolvency will color policy-making in the coming years. Plenty of time will be left for questions and discussion with attendees.

- George G. Olsen, Esq.  
President  
Williams & Jenson, PLLC

**11:30 - 1:00pm**                      **Lunch on Your Own**

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 (Continued)**

**1:00 – 2:00pm**

**Alternative Payment and Delivery Systems.** Federal health care policy makers, both on Capitol Hill and in CMS, are aggressively pursuing alternative payment and service delivery methodologies and demonstration projects including policies to replace the physician fee schedule, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), site-neutral payments Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Payment Model, Accountable Care Organizations, and post-acute care value-based purchasing. It is becoming increasingly clear that proposals such as these are the leading edge of Medicare reform. This session will examine these and other potential new methodology reforms.

- Staff from Congressional offices who have worked on these issues have been invited
- Officials from CMS involved in developing alternative models have also been asked to participate

**2:00 - 2:15pm**

**Break**

**2:15 to 3:00 pm**

**Outpatient Therapy Caps.** The exceptions process for the outpatient therapy caps was extended by Congress to January 1, 2018 but the legislative vehicle which always carried the therapy cap “fix”—the physician fee schedule—is no longer available. And, the rehabilitation sector faces the need to develop an alternative to the caps if they are to be repealed. This panel will discuss these issues in detail.

- Staff from Senators Cardin (D-NV) and Heller (R-NV) who are spearheading the effort to repeal the caps in the Senate have been invited to present.
- Staff from Reps. Boustany (R-LA) and Becerra (D-CA) who have sponsored the cap repeal legislation in the House have been invited to be on the panel.

**3:00 to 3:15 pm**

**Break**

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 (continued)**

**3:15 to 4:00 pm**

**Preparation for Hill Visits.** This session will prepare NARA members for their visits to Capitol Hill on Thursday morning. Key issues will be discussed and information packets provided to those meeting with their Congressional delegations. A brief review of the “dos and don’ts” of effective meetings on the Hill will also be furnished.

- Mark Anderson, PT  
President  
Mountain Land Rehabilitation, Inc.
  
- George G. Olsen, Esq.  
President  
Williams & Jenson, PLLC

**4:00 – 6:00pm**

**Connections & Cocktails**

Join us for a “speed dating” type event between Providers looking for Solution Partners to meet their business’ strategic goals. This event will start the process for meaningful networking and connections throughout the NARA conference. Each Owner/Provider will have an opportunity to request matches in categories of interest...and Solution Partners will have an opportunity to meet key decision makers. This is a great opportunity for providers to investigate solutions for key business needs and for vendors to discuss their unique contributions. Solution Partners will complete profile information identifying their unique contributions for the identified categories. A matching process will set up meetings between Providers and Solution Partners during this allocated time.

**6:00 – 7:30pm**

**Welcome Reception**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016**

**8:00am - 12:30pm**      **Conference Attendee Visits to Capitol Hill**

**12:30 - 1:45pm**      **Attendee Share Hill Visit Summaries and Feedback From Congressional Visits**

**PAC Presentation with Light Lunch**

A light lunch buffet will be provided while we discuss attendee results from the Hill visits. We will provide a feedback sheet for attendees to provide information for NARA and George to follow up on any opportunities to discuss further those issues of concern for Rehabilitation Providers. We will also provide a presentation of the NARA PAC. This PAC is supported by NARA members with the funds being used to support the issues impacting you.

- Ted Botens  
NARA PAC Treasurer

**1:45 – 2:00pm**      **Break**

**2:00 – 2:45pm**      **Current Status of Manual Medical Review.** The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) included a provision requiring the HHS Secretary to replace the existing process for conducting complex reviews of all Part B therapy claims over the \$3700 annual threshold with a new process for reviewing targeted claims over the threshold. On February 9<sup>th</sup> CMS announced that it had tasked Strategic health Solutions a SMRC to perform this medical review on a post-payment basis. This panel will endeavor to explain how this new system will work and the issues of which rehabilitation providers should be aware.

- CMS representatives involved in developing the target review process have been invited to participate.
- Daniel E. Ciolek, PT, MS, PMP [Invited]  
Associate Vice President, Therapy Advocacy  
American Health Care Association

**2:45 – 3:00pm**      **Break**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016 (Continued)**

**3:00 – 4:30pm**

**NARA Membership Annual Business Meeting**

This session is for current NARA Members. Those who are attending the conference but interested in becoming a NARA Member may attend.

**4:30 – 5:00pm**

**NARA Board of Directors Newly Elected Officers Meeting**

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**FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016**

- 7:00 – 8:15am**      **Jawing and Java with George.** *(additional registration and fee)* The floor is yours! Do you want to talk about the Presidential elections, whether the Senate will flip and be under Republican control, what will the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress look like, or what the major issues will be in Washington over the next couple of years? Ask away and George Olsen will do his best to answer your queries. No topic is out of bounds—well, almost none!
- 8:15 - 8:30am**      **Session Sign-In, Breakfast and Membership Networking**
- 8:30 - 9:45am**      **A Little Help from Our Friends!** NARA works with numerous organizations in Washington on legislative and regulatory matters of importance to NARA. This session provides an opportunity for these groups to share issues and ideas important to them directly with NARA's members. The following organizations have been invited to participate on this panel:
- American Occupational Therapy Association
  - American Physical Therapy Association
  - American Speech-Language- Hearing Association
  - National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care
  - American Health Care Association
  - American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
- 10:30 to 11:00am**      **Jimmo v. Sebelius—Back to Court on the Improvement Standard.** The Center for Medicare Advocacy and Vermont Legal Aid have gone back to court seeking to compel CMS to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement which ended continued application of the “improvement standard” by to deny Medicare coverage for skilled maintenance therapy and nursing. This session will provide information about the current use of the improvement standard which precipitated the new legal action and discuss the outlook for the litigation.
- A representative from the Center for Medicare Advocacy has been invited to present.
- 11:00 to 11:15am**      **Break**

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**FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016 (Continued)**

- 11:15 to 12 noon**      **Fraud and Abuse in the Health Care Sector/HIPAA and Cybersecurity.** The HHS Office of Inspector General has reported continued overbilling for therapy services and the federal government is stepping up its prosecution of fraud and abuse in the rehab sector. At the same time, HIPAA privacy breaches and hacking of health care providers have become commonplace. This session will examine both of these matters in detail.
- Michael D. Kans, Esq.  
Associate Attorney  
Williams & Jensen, PLLC
  - Official from the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - The U.S. Attorney General's Office has been asked to provide a speaker to describe the federal government's anti-fraud efforts
- 12:00 noon**              **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**