

GAC Report to ASCLS-NJ
Kim Przekop, GAC Region II Liaison
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Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Report:

- PAMA (Protecting Access to Medicare Act 2014): February 2016- CMS has asked that laboratories DO NOT submit data at this time on payment rates and volume on insurers. There is no projected completion data for the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Final Rule at this time. After the regs are finalized, laboratories can submit the data.
- There is a new FDA Commissioner, appointed by the President and confirmed by Congress. His name is Dr. Robert Califf, a cardiologist and researcher. He is the author of more than 1200 articles, much of it original research. A nationally and internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, healthcare quality, and clinical research, he spearheaded many landmark clinical trials.
- CMS is recommending screening for HIV for everyone ages 15-65 years old. Medicare will cover the cost for those enrolled in the program.
- The CDC is asking for laboratories' assistance in identifying pregnant women who are HBsAg positive. Currently, some of the infants are not being treated in a timely manner due to ineffective processes. The laboratory can help by adding HBsAG to a prenatal profile. Physicians should be instructed to order these panels or specific tests that identify the woman as being pregnant. Also, all HBsAg positive results on known pregnant women should be included in reports to local health departments.
- The Obama administration announced a \$1 billion initiative to cure cancer, named "the moon shot to cure cancer". A new FDA department was created, the Oncology Center of Excellence. Vice President Biden, who lost his son to brain cancer, is the drive behind the initiative. He vows to push the initiative during his last 15 months in office.
- Rhode Island State Representative Patricia Serpa intends to reintroduce the CLSPA Act that requires MLS to be licensed in that state. (This Act was repealed last year, and now MLS only need to be licensed and have an associate's degree; MLT can be hired out of high school).

- I did not attend the Legislative Symposium. I will report on the issues discussed there after the next GAC committee meeting.

Respectfully Reported by Kim A. Przekop

GAC Region II Liaison