

SASCI continued

claiming). The coding handbook is a guideline on how to appropriately group codes, based on peer group agreement, and as such a powerful tool. SASCI will keep their members updated on the status and new developments. We believe that the publishing of this guideline will be of enormous assistance to our members when they encounter various queries from funders.

CPT Coding and Competition Commission

The competition commission's period for submissions has been extended by 6 months. Members agreed, during the AGM, that SASCI needs to secure legal opinion to submit a full submission to the Competition Commission (rather than just responding to "allegations"). This programme is still ongoing and members will be kept abreast of new developments. I am working on a submission with legal council at the moment.

Alternate Reimbursement Model (Global)

During the 2014 AGM members supported the Exco in our discussions with Discovery Health on the development of a "Global Fee" structure. SASCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Discovery Health, but not all SASCI members have as yet been approached to discuss the proposal (voluntarily participation). Questions raised by some members during the visit by Discovery Health still await response from Discovery. SASCI is still engaging with Discovery Health on this matter, on behalf of the members. We will also, in the very near future, approach individuals to act on a peer review board in order to assess the implementation of this programme as it proceeds.

The POPI act

We are discussing the implications of this new legislation with legal advisors at this stage, and intend to inform our members in due course as to how this may affect their practice behaviours.

The following loyal corporate supporters have been committed to our society and have been supporting education in Cardiology in South Africa: Amayeza, Angio Quip, Aspen, AstraZeneca, Baroque, B Braun, Biotronik, Boston, Cardiac Output, Condor Medical, Cordis, Edwards, Logan Medical and Surgical, Medtronic, Obsidian, Paragmed, Pharma Dynamics, Sanofi, Surgical Innovations, Torque Medical and Volcano. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with you. We thank you for your generosity and acknowledge your immense contributions.

This past weekend I was privileged to attend the M and M meeting at Mount Grace, where an excellent, varied general



cardiology programme was presented. We heard a presentation by Dr Alfonso Pecoraro regarding the outreach work being done into the Western Cape secondary level hospitals from Tygerberg hospital. May I offer my personal congratulations to the Tygerberg cardiology unit for this amazing initiative: I must say, my personal black cloud regarding health care delivery instantaneously lifted from my shoulders as I heard of the problem solving, fresh approach from our colleagues. This was yet another example of wonderful commitment from industry towards practical patient care.

I wish to assure our members that the SASCI Exco will continue to work tirelessly to represent your interests, as well as educate and inform interventional cardiologists in our country. We deeply value, and need your support. Please feel free to get involved at any time. By all means, let us know if and where we can be further assistance to you as you deliver the best service possible to your patients.

Please contact SASCI's Executive Officer, George Nel, at 083 458 5954 or via email at sasci@sasci.co.za if you need any assistance or wish to formally communicate with the executive.

Dave Kettles
President, SASCI



SASCI

South African
Society of
Cardiovascular
Intervention