

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 11am-1pm

October 2013

Tanoan Country Club

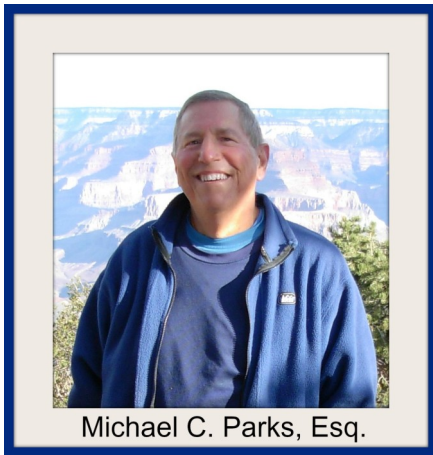
Sponsored by: [innoVage](#) & [Granfors Realty](#)

“The End of the ‘Improvement Standard’

Expanding the Scope of Medicare Coverage for Skilled Therapy and Nursing Services and Related SNF & Home Health Services”

By [Linus Bosley, NMACC Board Member](#)

For those on [Medicare](#), coverage of skilled therapy or skilled nursing services is extremely important for outpatient care and indispensable for Skilled Nursing Facility and Home Health services coverage. Many have learned or heard over the years that beneficiaries can get coverage for those services only if their condition is continually improving. That so-called [“Improvement Standard”](#) has been particularly harsh for the many Medicare beneficiaries with severe chronic conditions which, left untreated, are likely to deteriorate. As the result of a nationwide lawsuit, the federal Medicare agency has recently acknowledged that the “Improvement Standard” is unlawfully restrictive, and that these services can also be covered when necessary to maintain or slow the deterioration of a beneficiary’s condition.



Michael C. Parks, Esq.

Michael C. Parks is an attorney in [Albuquerque](#), who focuses on community education and advocacy. He has worked extensively on issues arising under Medicare, Medicaid, and other health program issues for over 40 years.

Michael is a 1968 graduate of the [Rutgers School of Law](#), Newark, NJ. From 1979 to 1992 he was a staff attorney in the Los Angeles office of the National Health Law Program, where he specialized in Medicare and Medicaid. During that time Michael also co-founded the Los Angeles area Medicare Advocacy Project, which is still in existence under the name [Center for Health Care Rights](#).

From 1993 to 2006 Michael was a staff attorney with the Senior Citizens’ Law Office (SCLO) in Albuquerque, with a brief interlude as an attorney at the New Mexico Protection & Advocacy System (now re-named [“Disability Rights New Mexico”](#)). Michael was recognized for his work by awards from the [New Mexico State Conference on Aging](#), and the National Aging and Law Conference. Michael continues to volunteer for [SCLO](#). He can be reached at [Michael C. Parks](#).

***NMACC To Go* optional homework:**

[Senior Citizens Law Office](#)

[National Health Law Program](#)

“Improvement Standard” Case: [Jimmo v. Sebelius](#)

[Jimmo v. Sebelius—Case that settled “Improvement Standard”](#) - December 2012

[Jimmo v. Sebelius Fairness Hearing Write-up](#) - January 24, 2013 - From CMA health Policy Consultants

[Impact of Jimmo v. Sebelius](#) on Darol Tuttle’s Living Care Guide Blog - Sunday, March 10, 2013

[Who is Glenda Jimmo? What’s her story?](#) - Reuters article Thursday, October 25, 2012

[Forbes: Medicare Settlement Does Not Expand Long-Term Care Benefits](#) - October 31, 2012

NMACC to go continued

NMACC Partypacks: (open houses, social gatherings, verified hearsay...)

- [18th Annual PrimeTime 50+ EXPO](#), Embassy Suites Hotel, Wednesday, October 9, 8:30am-3:30pm. 80 vendors, health screenings, Patsy Cline impersonator. Free admission. For more, call 880-0470.

NMACC Snacks: (non-profit events/causes...)

- Help [Oasis](#) find office space. Their contract with Macy's will expire in less than 6 months. Please contact [Michael Nutkiewicz](#), Executive Director, for more.
- Uniting New Mexicans Against Adult Abuse - [UNMAAA](#) Conference (Facebook link) - October 24. For more info, contact [Mary Martinez](#).
- Would your older-adult community or organization be interested in hosting a free fall-risk screening? Screenings would be conducted by a physical therapist or occupational therapist, along with supervised UNM OT and PT graduate students. For more information, contact [Janet Popp](#).
- [9th Annual Family Caregiver Conference](#), Saturday, November 2, 2013.

NMACC Sac: (fast links to helpful educational tidbits)

- [2013 Albuquerque & Bernalillo County Quick Guide to Senior Services](#)—stay tuned for the 2014 version...
- Jan Stringer, Perfect Customers Inc.
- ["Attracting Perfect Customers: Get 5 Clients in 5 Weeks & Turn Them Into Loyal Raving Fans"](#) - October, 11, 2013, 11:30am-1:05pm; Tanoan Country Club. [Val Romero](#), or 362-8546.
- [CMSA—Rio Grande Chapter Conference](#), October 10-11, Albuquerque Marriott Hotel.

NMACC Almanac: (Upcoming Meetings)

Please calendar: November 21, December 5 (*an after-work soiree...*)



The end of the year is near. NMACC's Board has been asked to consider potential new meeting locations for 2014 by some local hotels. Your opinions matter, so the monthly survey at this month's meeting asks for your input. Make sure to pick up your survey when you check in for this month's luncheon and to return it after the meeting so that your Board can make the best decision.

"NMACC To Go" Submissions for announcements of any kind will be published the month of the event, unless the event scheduled occurs before the date of distribution. For accuracy, "Series" events (regular meetings) must be submitted monthly. Deadline for next edition:

Friday, November 1, 2013

Please provide a link **and** email contact/phone number to your activity/event. Send submissions to: [NMACC to go](#)