

This month's meeting, Thurs., May 18, 11am-1pm

May 2017

[Tanoan Country Club](#)

This month's sponsors (*yep, it's a link*):



Managing Medications Through Transitions in Care



Gail Bastian-Montoya, PharmD, PhC, BCACP

Gail Bastian-Montoya

David M. Cutler, Ph.D., and Wendy Everett, Sc.D., [New England Journal of Medicine](#)

“Poor adherence to treatment regimens has long been recognized as a substantial roadblock to achieving better outcomes for patients. Data show that as many as half of all patients do not adhere faithfully to their prescription-medication regimens — and the result is more than \$100 billion spent each year on avoidable hospitalizations. Nonadherence to medication regimens also affects the quality and length of life; for example, it has been estimated that better adherence to antihypertensive treatment alone could prevent 89,000 premature deaths in the United States annually.

“What is less clear is why adherence to the 3.8 billion prescriptions written every year is so poor. Out-of-pocket costs for medication clearly affect adherence; people use more drugs when the prices of the drugs are lower. But even if drugs were free, nonadherence would persist: one recent study showed that even among patients who have health plans with no cost sharing for medications, rates of nonadherence were nearly 40%.

“Lack of coordination of care is another major factor. There is much more that could be done at the time a physician prescribes a medication to optimize and tailor regimens for individual patients. For patients with coexisting conditions who take multiple medications prescribed by multiple physicians, there is a vital need to reconcile the prescribed regimen with what a patient is actually taking and to understand why there is a difference between the two. But optimizing and reconciling medications require substantial investments of time by a skilled health care practitioner, as well as electronic data sharing among practitioners — neither of which is widely available in today's model of health care delivery.”

The rest of this article may be found at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1002305>

Editor's Piece



Jim Myers

Every time a patient is transitioned, the opportunity for error exists. Medication miscues account for many of these patient fax pas. There are certainly some safety measures in effect when it comes to medication distribution, but something as simple as the transfer from hospital to home can be problematic if compliance with the med list isn't taken seriously, or there are cognitive issues that don't allow it to happen. If you care for an octogenarian (*Mom is 89 this year*) like I do, you'll soon realize that it only takes one misstep to throw everything out of whack. Then it's back to the hospital. We all must keep our minds as well as hearts engaged as we help in these transitions of care. Hopefully, today's tips will resonate with you and the senior population you serve.

NMACC *to go* continued

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

- The next [Senior.One's "Connect!"](#) event will be held on June 14, 3:30-5pm @ Access Solutions. July's meeting will be July 12, 9:30-11am @ Elan at Santa Monica. More? contact [Lisa Quintana](#) or call 417-9771.
- [Brio Assisted Living](#) is having their Grand Opening on Thursday, June 1, from 3-7pm. Tours, wine and Hors D'oeuvres will brighten the afternoon/evening - and a raffle will take place as well. RSVP by May 26th to [MarcyReames](#). Brio is located at 13101 Constitution Ave. NE, ABQ, 87112, 505-508-3701.

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

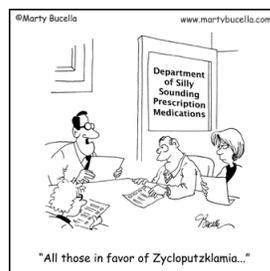
- Silver Horizons New Mexico is looking for volunteers to staff concession stands at the Isotopes Ball Park this summer. No experience necessary - a great way to have fun, meet new peeps, and help raise money for SHNM, NMACC's non-profit of the year. To volunteer, simply go to <http://silverhorizons.org/> or call Executive Director [Ron Hidalgo](#) at 505-800-1400. Each game earns Silver Horizons approximately \$1000, all going toward food, utility assistance and home repairs for the neediest seniors in our community.



NMACC Sac: (fast links to helpful educational tidbits)

- ["How Pharmacists Can Prevent medication Errors in Transitions of Care"](#) - Rachel Lutz, Pharmacy Times
- ["Reconcile Medications at All Transition Points"](#) - Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- ["Transitions of Care III - Scarier than a horror moving: Medication Errors"](#) - McKnight's

NMACC Farmacy Funnies:



NMACC Almanac: (Upcoming Meetings)

Jun 15, Jul 20, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec TBD

"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: **June 9, 2017**

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

Want to find out more about NMACC? Go to [New Mexico Association for Continuity of Care](#). Attend the luncheon? Go to ["Calendar of Events"/NOTE](#).

NMACC to go is the board-approved E-newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Continuity of Care. Submissions are open to current members in good standing of NMACC.

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