

Health Policy Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 4

December, 2004

Article 6

Department of Health Policy Invited
to Participate in Board Review Curriculum

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Suggested Citation:

Sciamanna C. Department of Health Policy invited to participate in board review curriculum. *Health Policy Newsletter* 2004; 17(4): Article 6. Retrieved [date] from <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/hpn/vol17/iss4/6>.

Department of Health Policy Invited to Participate in Board Review Curriculum

The Department of Health Policy at Jefferson Medical College is pleased to announce its planned involvement in the 14th edition of the Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP), the de facto standard core curriculum for internal medicine, used both for preparing for the internal medicine board certification exam and for lifelong learning. The MKSAP provides the latest developments in internal medicine and its subspecialties within the context of core information. The materials are available in print, CD-ROM and audio format and cover 14 areas in internal medicine in 10 separate books of over 1,500 total pages. MKSAP is published by the American College of Physicians, the nation's largest medical specialty organization.

Dr. Jack Ende, professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and chief of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center-Presbyterian, has invited several members of the Department of Health Policy to contribute to the "Foundations in Internal Medicine" book, which includes topics that cut across the clinical specialty areas, such as ethics, pharmacology and professionalism. Dr. David Nash, Department Chair, and Neil Goldfarb, Program Director for Research, will write the section on "Quality Improvement and Healthcare Policy," which covers the areas of process improvement, issues related to access to care, and elements of healthcare financing (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid). The publication of the Institute of Medicine's reports "To Err Is Human: Building A Safer Health System" (2000) about medical errors and "Crossing The Quality Chasm" (2001) about health care quality deficits in the United States have brought these issues to the nation's attention and demand that internists, representing an important part of the healthcare system, become involved in finding and implementing creative solutions to these problems. It also shows that issues surrounding health policy, such as the recently enacted Medicare Modernization Act, impact the daily lives of internists and thus need to become a requisite part of their training.

Dr. Nash and Dr. Christopher Sciamanna will write the "Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine" section, which covers the basic skills of clinical epidemiology (e.g., sensitivity, specificity) and how to apply these skills to patient care. A key skill in this area is being able to use the medical literature to make decisions, which requires a working understanding of epidemiology (e.g., study design, sampling) and biostatistics (e.g., p-values, confidence intervals). Each contributor will also write multiple-choice questions, which are a key part of the teaching and test-preparatory goals of the MKSAP series. MKSAP 14 will be released in two parts, Part A in July 2006 and Part B in December 2006. More information on the program can be found at: <http://www.acponline.org/catalog/mksap/?hp>.

About the Author

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